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## Camelot 'fat cats' donate part-bonus to charity

BY JON ASHWORTH AND CAROL MIDDLETON

THE row over Camelot 'fat cat' pay was resolved yesterday when senior directors agreed to donate part of their bonuses to charity.

The deal, agreed in last-minute negotiations on Thursday evening, headed off a showdown with government officials. Tim Holley, Camelot's chief executive, and his senior colleagues had threatened to resign rather than give up their bonuses.

The solution emerged after Camelot shareholders and executives met in London yesterday morning. Chris Smith, the Heritage Secretary, welcomed the pledge on bonuses, saying: "I now regard the matter as closed. The Government will press on with its plans to make the National Lottery more a People's Lottery."

Mr Smith prompted the showdown by rejecting earlier concessions from Camelot as inadequate. He demanded personal sacrifices from Camelot's directors, saying their generous pay packages threatened to alienate the lottery-playing public, and could harm ticket sales. Mr Holley received remuneration of £590,000 last year.

Under the compromise, Mr Holley and his colleagues will not give up any of the bonuses which sparked the furor. Instead, they will give up some of the next round of long-term bonuses, payable in the autumn.

Mr Holley was paid £176,000 under Camelot's long-term incentive plan for 1996. His colleagues each received £96,000. The next tranche of payments is likely to be considerably lower.

Sir George Russell, chairman of Camelot, said part of the directors' bonuses would be paid into a joint fund which will be given directly to charity. Camelot's remuneration committee will monitor the payments, details of which will not be made public. Mr Smith said he felt confident the amounts would be "sub-

stantial". Speaking outside Camelot's headquarters in London — directly opposite Mr Smith's office at the Heritage Department — David Rigg, director of communications, said he had not yet decided whether he would give up the fund.

Asked if Camelot had effectively forced a retreat from the Government, Mr Rigg said: "I have every expectation and belief that Sir George Russell and Chris Smith will be entirely pleased with the outcome. He added: "I feel we have got a serious basis for moving forward now."

Camelot had also agreed that interest from the prize fund shortfall (money set aside for prizes which are not won) will now be passed to good causes rather than Camelot's coffers. This could amount to £24 million during the period to 2001, when the company's licence expires.

The Government is now

expected to work with Camelot to raise the maximum for good causes.

Mr Smith said Camelot and its suppliers had done "an outstanding job", and Camelot would not be excluded from applying for the lottery licence when it comes up for renewal. The department is taking submissions on how the lottery could be run on a non-profitmaking basis.

Leading article, page 23



Holley: to give up part of his long-term bonus



Bride Mary Murphy voting in Springfield yesterday on her way to church

## It's far too close to call as Ireland goes to the polls

BY AUDREY MAGEE, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

MARY ROBINSON, the Irish President, was among the first to vote in the Republic's general election, which got off to a brisk start yesterday with about a quarter of the 2.7 million eligible votes cast by early evening.

Polling booths opened at 8am on a day earlier than in previous elections. There was an early-morning rush to vote in the west of Ireland but democracy was exercised at a slower pace in Dublin. The turnout in an Irish election is usually between 65 and 70 per cent. However, the political parties were concerned last night that rain may have deterred voters.

Bertie Ahern, the leader of the Fianna Fail opposition tipped to be the next Prime Minister, cast his vote near his home in Drumcondra, Dublin. Mr Ahern, whose party is in an electoral alliance with the small, right-wing Progressive Democrats, said: "I believe the people of Ireland want to see

change. They want to see our country modernised but they want to see it modernised in a way that's consistent with their own beliefs."

Polls show the FF/PD electoral alliance nine points ahead of Prime Minister John Bruton's "Rainbow" coalition of his own Fine Gael party with Labour and neo-Marxist Democratic Left.

But Mr Bruton said he was confident that the voters would break with history and return an incumbent Government for the first time in 30 years, rather than opting for an untried opposition alliance. Voting at his constituency in Meath, where he polled badly in 1992 and won only the third seat, Mr Bruton said: "I think there is no doubt people will go for the Rainbow. I think the choice is very clear in this election between two parties which have a proven record of not being able to get on particularly well under pressure and three parties who show they care

for the weak in our society as well as the strong and can work as a team."

While the opinion polls indicated a win for Fianna Fail and the Progressive Democrats, neither coalition camp was particularly confident of a forthcoming result.

Ireland uses proportional representation to elect the Dail, or parliament, and first preference votes count for about only 20 per cent of the 166 seats. The remainder of the seats are decided on vote transfers, making the result very difficult to call. The opinion polls also showed that 14 per cent of voters were undecided in the final week of the election.

The results of the election — the closest in recent years with a hung Dail still a possible outcome — will be known on Sunday. Recounts are expected in a number of constituencies, including Cavan/Monaghan, where Sinn Fein is hoping to win its first seat since 1981.

## Right fights it out to stop Clarke

BY PHILIP WEBSTER  
POLITICAL EDITOR

KENNETH CLARKE won the backing of the former Transport Secretary, Sir George Young, yesterday, and John Redwood was endorsed by the veteran Eurosceptic Sir Teddy Taylor as the five contenders in the Tory leadership election began a final scramble for undeclared votes.

Sir George said that Mr Clarke was the candidate most likely to lead the Tories to electoral victory in five years, would land punches on Labour in the Commons, and would speak with authority and experience on the central issues of the day.

"While all the candidates are able people and friends of mine I believe that Ken has

the extra qualities that make him an outstanding candidate."

The backing from Sir Teddy, one of the eight Tories who lost the party whip after rebelling over Europe during the last Parliament, was welcomed by the Redwood team, already buoyed by his warm reception from the right-wing 92 Group on Thursday night. Amid the claims and counter-claims yesterday, it was clear that the battle for supremacy on the Right in the first ballot, to be held next week, could be crucial to the overall outcome.

The apparent frontrunner is Mr Clarke, with William Hague in second place. But the struggle between Peter Lilley, Michael Howard and Mr Redwood to finish ahead of each other is vital. The unofficial understanding between

some of the supporters of all three is that the winner of the three-way battle will eventually get the support of the other two in order to knock out both Mr Hague and Mr Clarke at later stages of the contest.

Mr Lilley, who is poised to announce new backers over the next few days, was reported yesterday to be disputing claims by the Howard camp that the former Home Secretary had overhauled him and was now poised to be the champion of the Right in the final battle with Mr Clarke. Mr Howard's camp, however, was indignant over a report suggesting that he would eventually throw in the towel and come in behind Mr Clarke.

Mr Hague will today call on his party not to be mesmerised by Mr Blair just because of the size of Labour's majority.

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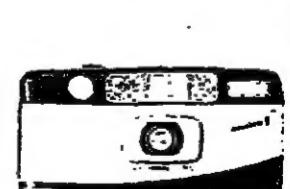
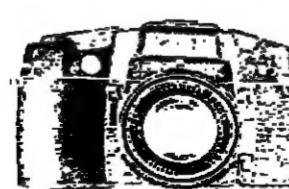
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## Inquiry into strip search of woman prisoner

THE TIMES SATURDAY JUNE 7 1997

HOME NEWS 3

# Carpet fitter cuts his cloth as £8m dealer in the City

By OLIVER AUGUST AND MICHAEL CLARK



Crawley: highest-paid director in Britain

BRITAIN'S highest-paid director is a former carpet fitter who now cuts his cloth as a City trader. Newly filed accounts at Companies House show that Terry Crawley, 34, earned £8.4 million last year from dealing in bonds — in effect, betting on interest-rate changes.

Mr Crawley, a Bermondsey boy and son of a Thames bargeman, was paid more than the men who run the water and electricity companies, and many times the salaries that have earned the Camelot directors such opprobrium. He out-earned Carol Galley, the highest-paid woman in the country, who made £5.4 million running the Mercury Asset Management fund business.

The all-time record for executive pay is held by Crispin Odey, a top City fund manager, who was paid £19 million in 1995 but a "mere" £175,000 this year.

But Mr Crawley has not joined the ranks of the City establishment. His company, Crawley Futures, lists two main areas of business — bond dealing and car repairs — and he leads the "south London mafia", a collection of former floor-layers, roofers and builders who now work at the London International Financial Futures Exchange (Liffe).

The traders make money by predicting the future price of shares and bonds. They buy

Italian economy, which ideally suits the futures market.

According to recent market rumours, his firm made a £1 million clear profit selling Italian bonds in a morning — and the same again in the afternoon.

Insiders in the pit say Mr Crawley earns his money: "He's there first thing in the morning and the last one to leave at night."

Mr Crawley is said to be an "unassuming kind of bloke" although he enjoys the trappings of wealth. He owns a string of detached homes in the Knockholt area of Kent, each with a swimming pool. He runs a Range Rover, a Mercedes and Bentley Mulsanne Turbo.

Another pit trader declared: "Crawley is head honcho in the pit. It is a real viper's nest. If you want to trade, the chances are you will have to do it through him."

Futures traders do not conform to the stereotype of the City gent. Many were absent at last night's black-tie dinner at Syon House in Middlesex celebrating Liffe's 15th anniversary. This is surprising seeing that they provide so much liquidity to the market," said one trader.

Around 2,000 guests attended the dinner and grand ball under canvas which is part of London Derivatives Week. The guest list included members of Liffe and overseas futures markets, politicians, government officials and clients. Entertainment included a laser show and fireworks. A spokesman for Liffe declined to say how much it cost.

"Liffe wouldn't have wanted the locals there. It might have proved embarrassing in front of all those dignitaries with the proceedings slipping into a giant bun fight," one trader said.

But Mr Crawley has not completely severed his connection with manual labour. His company, Crawley Futures, also has interests in "repairing, restoring, cleaning, maintaining, improving, altering, installing, extending or destroying any vehicle, plant, machinery or work of art", according to the company's annual accounts.

Futures traders on the floor: "a viper's nest", said one

## Dambuster bombs turn up on coast

By A STAFF REPORTER

ARMY engineers began a delicate operation yesterday to recover prototypes of Barnes Wallis's dam-busting bouncing bombs from the Kent coast. Five bombs have been discovered on the low tide mark at Reculver, near Herne Bay, where trials for one of the most famous air-raids of the Second World War were held.

Reservists from 101 London Explosive Ordnance Disposal Regiment, Royal Engineers, are working to remove them. One 8,000lb bomb is identical to the Upkeep weapons dropped on the Ruhr dams.

Two are 1,200lb High Ball bombs, developed to attack battleships but never used. The other two are unknown systems because the records have been destroyed.

Captain Alan Conroy of 101 Regiment said: "The weapons are an important part of the country's military history and should be recovered for the benefit of future generations."

## Judge urges Parliament to change detention law

By A STAFF REPORTER

A JUDGE yesterday criticised laws preventing him from imposing custodial sentences on two boys who kicked a teenager unconscious.

After watching a security video recording of the attack on 14-year-old Peter McKane, Judge Denis Clark told the boys, aged 13 and 14, that he would have liked to send them to detention. "It is about time Parliament caught up with the reality of life on the streets in our cities," he said.

"Boys of 13 and 14 are very streetwise and capable of doing wicked acts, and the sooner Parliament revises the restrictions the better."

At present judges cannot impose custodial sentences on those under the age of 15, and 15-year-olds can only receive up to two years' detention.

The two boys appeared at Liverpool Crown Court in their school uniforms with the 15-year-old ringleader of the attack, Lee Browne. He

had drunk two litres of strong cider before the attack.

Sending Browne to detention for 18 months, Judge Clark said that the video clearly showed him kicking or stamping on the victim's head eight times. Browne, of Oxton, Wirral, and his two companions had all pleaded guilty to assault causing actual bodily harm. The judge granted the 13-year-old, who wept throughout the hearing, a conditional discharge for two years. The 14-year-old was placed under supervision for two years.

Judge Clark told Browne that he was imposing a custodial sentence because he had led the attack "in great triumph". He said: "It was an attack of the utmost savagery and the boy had no chance to defend himself. You came up from behind in a cowardly manner and you picked on him just because he happened to be there. It is a chilling reminder of what is going on in our streets at night."

Donal Maguire, prosecuting, said the incident occurred about 8pm on December 6 when Peter McKane was walking through the Grange shopping precinct in Birkenhead with three friends. The recording from a closed circuit television camera showed the trio coming up behind the group. Browne knocked Peter to the ground and then kicked him. Browne was seen repeatedly kicking him and stamping on his head, and after the 13-year-old ran up and took a kick one of Peter's trainers flew off.

Mr Maguire said that the cameras were being monitored by security staff and the incident ended after guards ran to the scene. Peter was taken to hospital and detained overnight. He still suffers headaches, and one of his companions has post-traumatic stress disorder.

## England kit sponsor fears rival team

By JOANNA BALE

THE England football kit sponsor is taking legal action to stop the Liverpool player Steve McManaman signing with a rival firm.

Umbro Europe issued a High Court writ on Wednesday applying for an injunction to make McManaman, 25, keep the terms of his boot contract, which has two years to run.

The contract, which McManaman signed as an 18-year-old, is worth an estimated £6,000 a year. According to sources, the England and Newcastle star Alan Shearer gets more than 50 times more from Umbro.

Earlier this year, McManaman was reported to be on the verge of signing a £1 million deal with the American sports-wear giant Nike. The four-year contract would have boosted his earnings to an estimated £15,000 a week. Umbro was said to be fighting hard to keep him, but was allegedly unable to compete with Nike's financial package.

Simon Marsh, sports marketing manager of Umbro Europe,

said yesterday: "We deeply regret having to take this course of action, but we believe we have got an enforceable agreement which concludes in July 2000. I cannot discuss the matter further due to confidentiality clauses within the contract."

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"We were asked to look at it and we do not believe it is a binding contract because it is a restraint of trade, for reasons which I am not prepared to discuss. The contract is not worth very much, just a few thousand pounds. We believe he is effectively out of the agreement. He's very sad that matters have come to this stage."

Mr Tyrrell denied reports that



McManaman signed boots deal at age of 18

JULY 1997

## Barefoot Princess signals danger to Neasden's monks

By ALAN HAMILTON

MEN who have pledged themselves to a lust-free life would be well advised not to enter the same room as Diana, Princess of Wales. Her black-painted toenails might gnaw at the very roots of their vows.

In line with Hindu tradition, she received the *chandlo*, the sacred red vermilion mark on her forehead that signifies respect for a visitor. A *pujari* — a Hindu priest — recited mantras as a red thread known as a *Nanda Chadi* was tied around the Princess's right wrist to symbolise an eternal bond of friendship and love. A garland of pink, red and white roses was placed around her neck, but she chose not to follow the Hindu tradition of covering the head while in a holy place.

The Princess, clearly, was not for them. Male visitors are a different matter. The Prince of Wales, the Duke of Edinburgh, Tony Blair and John Major have all met the monks on previous visits to the temple. None, so far as is known, paints his toenails.

The Shri Swaminarayan Mandir has transformed the north London district of Neasden. Opened in 1995, it is a startling sight among the semis and the cut-price furniture warehouses. It took three years to build and employed 1,500 sculptors, 2,000 tonnes of Carrara marble, and 3,000 tonnes of limestone.

The Princess might have worn a traditional sari, but she chose instead a plain beige summer dress with gold buttons. It was when she removed her black high-heeled shoes to enter the temple that she revealed unusual reddish-black nail varnish on her toes.

When the Princess paid a visit to the Hindu temple outside India yesterday, its complement of 11 sadhus — monks of shaved head and saffron robe — remained out of sight, busying themselves with study and prayer. Sadhus must avert their gaze to avoid any sight of women, may not handle money, are allowed neither possessions nor an ego, and should remain unattached to any particular person or place.

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Inside the prayer hall, through the cool marble interior, the Princess gazed at the temple's nine shrines, marvelling at the intricacy of their carvings. Four boys from the Swaminarayan Hindu school across the street performed a traditional peacock dance for her; usually there are more, but they were sitting GCSE exams.

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As anybody else, making their way to an educational establishment. It was a normal morning, not late at night."

Details of their ordeal were being taken from the girls yesterday by specially trained police officers. The girls have told detectives that they were approached in the town's busy market area, where pavements are lined with market stalls. They then walked 500 yards with the men to where the van was parked in a car park.

Detective Sergeant Mark Wareing said: "There would have been a lot of people in the market. Someone must have seen something and would appeal to them to come forward."

## Teenage girls assaulted on way to college

By RUSSELL JENKINS

THREE schoolgirls were abducted in daylight by three men in a busy town centre, bundled into the back of a van and sexually assaulted. One was raped. The girls had been on their way to a sixth-form college.

Police are looking for three Asian males believed to be in their late teens. One girl was aged 15 and the others 14. They were taking a break from school to attend a workshop at High Clarendon Sixth Form College in Hyde, Greater Manchester.

A senior police officer said it was a shocking assault. The police were

called after the girls, in a distressed and dishevelled state, staggered into the college grounds at 11am on Thursday and reported the attacks to staff. They were not wearing school uniform.

One of the girls' fathers had taken them by car to the gates of Tameside Sixth Form College, only to discover it was the wrong college. Once the girls realised their mistake, they started their half-mile journey across the town to High Clarendon college. On Market Street, in Hyde, they were accosted by three young Asian men, who forced them into the back of a white Ford Transit van, which was driven a short distance before stopping. One of the

younger girls was then raped and the men carried out serious sexual assaults on the other two girls before dumping them by the roadside and driving off.

Detective Chief Inspector Colin Grant, based at Ashton-under-Lyne, said: "These girls were abducted from right outside the college. What then happened to them is just awful. We are looking for three Asian men and we would also like to trace the van."

Andrew Quarney, Vice-Principal of High Clarendon, said: "It is such an exceptional incident that we find it very difficult to come to terms with. It is quite uncharacteristic of the area. These girls were running the same risk as anybody else, making their way to an educational establishment. It was a normal morning, not late at night."

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# Aitken denies misleading Butler over stay at Ritz

By MICHAEL HORNELL

JONATHANAITKEN denied yesterday that he had misled Sir Robin Butler, the Cabinet Secretary, over who paid for his stay at the Ritz Hotel in Paris. The former Tory minister told the High Court that he pleaded guilty to "sharp editing" of a letter about his stay, but he denied dishonesty.

In a series of exchanges with George Curnow, QC, on the third day of his libel action, Mr Aitken denied misleading Sir Robin by misquoting a letter he had requested from the hotel about the payment of his bill in 1993. The former Chief Secretary to the Treasury said the sharp editing of the letter was not to deceive Sir Robin, but to put *The Guardian* off the scent.

During the cross examination, no details of what was in either the letter from The Ritz to Mr Aitken, or his letter to Sir Robin Butler, were given.

Mr Aitken, 54, is suing the newspaper and Granada TV, which claimed that his business career and fortune depended upon his connection with the Saudi royal family. They alleged he had a busi-



Jonathan Aitken, left, and Sir Robin Butler

ness meeting with prominent Arabs at the hotel while he was a minister of the Crown, and that his bill was paid by them in breach of guidelines on ministerial conduct.

Mr Curnow, counsel for the newspaper and Granada, put it to him: "If His Lordship [Mr Justice Popplewell] has to make the melancholy decision that you have lied to the Cabinet Secretary, you have lied to the Prime Minister, you have lied to the House of Commons, and to this court on all occasions to do with your stay at The Ritz, you would accept that such a series of lies

would prove you totally unfit for public office?"

Mr Aitken said his own letter to the Cabinet Secretary about the Ritz letter had been intended to "throw dust in the eyes" of *The Guardian*.

He added: "I wish I had written it differently, but I was certainly open and honest with Sir Robin at an early opportunity about that letter. I had no intention of deceiving Sir Robin. My sharp editing of that letter, to which I plead guilty, was not intended to deceive him, but to put *The Guardian* off the scent."

Earlier Mr Aitken had told the court of a meeting he had with Peter Preston, then Editor of *The Guardian*, at a formal dinner in 1993. He said Mr Preston had told him in a "chilling" aside: "We will get you in the end."

The remark was made as the two were exchanging letters about an alleged business meeting Mr Aitken had had with prominent Arabs against ministerial rules in Paris, and about who had paid for his stay there.

Mr Aitken, who resigned his Treasury position two years later to launch his libel action, spoke of the conversation during his second day in the witness box. He denied attending any business meeting at the hotel, where he stayed in September, 1993, and said that his wife, Licia, had paid the bill with money he gave her.

The trial continues.

## Security checks may be made on nurses

By RICHARD FORD  
HOME CORRESPONDENT

REGULAR checks of criminal records for staff at a special hospital are being considered after the discovery that a nurse had been convicted of importing pornography.

William Baird was dismissed from Ashworth Hospital at Maghull on Merseyside when his conviction in 1994 was discovered during a police investigation. Mr Baird, 38, joined the hospital, which holds some of the most dangerous offenders, in 1979 and rose to become a team leader.

Earlier this year a judicial

inquiry was ordered into the management of the personality unit at the hospital after its chief executive, Janice Miles, and two male nurses were suspended.

Erville Millar, the acting chief executive, said yesterday that he was considering strict security checks on all 1,600 staff every three years. At present a check on criminal records is only made before appointments are made.

A hospital spokesman said: "There is a flaw in the system that allowed Mr Baird to go on working. We have to depend on people being honest about any convictions."



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## Solar panels cut bills

project is a joint venture between Greenpeace and the Peabody Trust, London's largest housing association.

Three terraced houses in Silvertown were chosen to be wired up to show that solar panels can generate electricity in ordinary homes, making a saving of £60 per household on annual electricity bills. The

energy readily available for homes in the future. Marcus Rand, of Greenpeace, said: "We are calling on the Government to start a nationwide solar programme." George Barlow, Chief Executive of Peabody, said: "High household bills are financially crippling for people on low incomes, especially for families and the elderly. Peabody is delighted to be working with Greenpeace on this landmark solar project. We hope it will set in motion a new approach to the use of clean, renewable energy to reduce energy costs for people who most need affordable housing."





## TRADE SECRETS

If we required the documents, she would microfilm them and conceal them in fake deodorant bottles, then deposit them in the lavatory tanks of trains crossing the border.

The former East German spy chief Markus Wolf reveals the spycraft of his top woman agent

THE SUNDAY TIMES  
15  
THE SUNDAY PAPERS

# Colleagues say PC hit by car thief was Good Samaritan

BY STEWART TENDER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

A POLICEMAN who had planned to end his day celebrating his youngest son's birthday spent the night in intensive care after being flung from his patrol car when a suspect stole it.

Yesterday, as relatives anxiously waited for PC Gurdial Sidhu to recover consciousness at St Mary's Hospital in Paddington, central London, detectives were hunting his attacker. At Notting Hill police station, where the constable has been based for three years, colleagues were still shocked by the attack on an officer who gave up a career in computers to become a policeman because he wanted to help people. A senior officer said yesterday: "He is a Good Samaritan, a good policeman and a good family man."

PC Sidhu, known to colleagues as Sid, was left with a fractured skull after he stopped a battered B-registration Maestro van in a north Kensington street on Thursday morning. He began questioning the white driver and a second white man was seen by witnesses to join the discussion. PC Sidhu made checks on the van over his radio and called for a police van to pick up the driver, whom he apparently planned to arrest.

What happened next is uncertain until PC Sidhu regains consciousness. Detectives are unsure whether there was a struggle. But one of the men jumped into the police car and drove off. The constable either tried to stop him or was knocked on to the bonnet.

He was carried for about 30 yards as the car accelerated away and was thrown off when the white Metro careered, hitting his head on the scrubbs.

Yesterday Detective Chief Inspector David Shipperlee, leading the manhunt, said 30 officers were involved in the investigation. He ruled out a racial element in the attack and said the driver probably fled after giving a false identity. The van has no traceable owner.

At the intensive care unit, doctors said the constable's condition was stable and he is not thought to be in any danger. Scotland Yard made arrangements with Indian officials for his new wife, Ranjita, to travel to join her husband for the first time in Britain. The policeman recently married for the second time in India and his wife is waiting for immigration papers to be completed. The Yard has also detailed a Punjabi-speaking officer to stay with the injured man's family. PC Sidhu's mother speaks no English and his father died when he was young.

The 36-year-old officer was born in Southall, west London, and still lives in the area. He has two brothers and a sister and was educated at Featherstone High School in west London. He took a City and Guilds examination as a computer technician at Hounslow College.

PC Sidhu and his wife, Caroline, had two boys, Daniel, 10 and James, 12. But the couple later divorced and the boys live with their father and a nanny. Yesterday police said they were being cared for by relatives.

In 1992 PC Sidhu decided to join the police. He told examiners at Hendon Police College that he had suddenly realised policing was the job he really wanted to do. He told them it was his ambition to help people and to uphold the law. As one of 268 Asian officers in London, he went on the beat around Notting Hill and earned considerable praise from the public and senior officers. His personal file includes letters from motorists that he stopped to help, and six local commendations for good police work such as arrests and investigations.



Ruairidh MacLennan, 20, a geography undergraduate from Aberdeen University who was yesterday declared chief of his clan after settling an eight-year dispute with an Australian cousin. As part of the deal, MacLennan, of Dories on the shore of Loch Ness, must now produce an heir or the title will pass to his rival in Sydney

## Crofters spurn chance to be lairds

BY SHERYL ENGLISH

AN HISTORIC move giving Highland crofters the chance to own at no cost the land they rent came into force yesterday. The change was first announced last year in answer to almost a century of unrest over land reform. But so far remarkably few crofting communities have shown interest in the offer.

The new law means the Scottish Crofters' Union, said: "At the moment communities are giving it some thought, but there is no great rush, mainly because the Department of Agriculture is seen as a good and benevolent landlord."

One in ten crofters, around 1,400 households, rents a total of 105,000 hectares directly from the Government, acquired mainly in the early years of this century to undo the Highland Clearances

move from tenant to landlord. Yesterday Joseph Kerr, of the Crofting Trust Advisory Service set up last year to oversee the change, said he was not surprised by the slow take-up: "Crofting as a system has been in place for a long time and we are now talking about a substantial change."

Fraser MacLeod, of the Scottish Crofters' Union, said: "At the moment communities are giving it some thought, but there is no great rush, mainly because the Department of Agriculture is seen as a good and benevolent landlord."

As well as ownership of the land, the Crofting Trusts, who will act as the new community landlords, will also have responsibility for land, road and bridge maintenance, water and drainage, and rent collection.

The three estates to undertake studies are Armadale and Keoldale in Highland and Dumans township in Skye.

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country together to lobby the commission, and they liked the idea. It is a really grassroots millennium effort, the good side of the lottery."

The council received over 500 applications for the lottery money. Dr Forbes said it was hard to make choices. "We evaluated the social and technical merit of their case, along with signs that they would be raising some money themselves, and the likelihood of planning permission."

St John the Baptist Church in Liverpool, received the largest grant of £25,977. Dr Forbes said it was a "cash-poor, skill-rich" parish.

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## Health trust gives care jobs to former mental patients

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN, SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

PEOPLE with a history of mental illness are being recruited as nursing and care assistants by a National Health Service trust as part of an equal opportunities initiative.

Advertisements for certain posts at the Pathfinder Mental Health Services NHS Trust in south London state that "personal experience of mental health difficulties" is one of the necessary "qualifications". So far, 13 people previously treated for schizophrenia and manic depression have been found part-time and full-time work with mental health patients.

Rachel Perkins, clinical director and consultant psychologist at the trust, said that unemployment among people with long-term mental health problems was running at 90 per cent, yet many of these people could bring "added value" to jobs as carers working with psychiatric patients. "The positive contribution that some people with personal experience of mental health

problems can bring is enormous," Dr Perkins added that providing work opportunities for such people was vital, because it helped them to become reintegrated into society and to feel valued.

Duncan Selbie, the trust's chief executive, said: "This is not about positive discrimination in favour of people with mental health problems, it's about positively not discriminating against them."

Richard Gresham, 57, a former Fleet Street compositor who was treated for manic depression, was unemployed for eight years before being taken on by the trust as an occupational therapy helper. He now works as a technical instructor, teaching simple assembly work to patients.

"When I saw the job advertisement stating that you had to have experience of mental health problems, I thought it was a joke," he said.

He added: "I love the work. It provides me with security.

The patients I work with know about me and like it. They see what I have achieved and it gives them hope."

Duncan Marston, 39, a musician who was treated for paranoid schizophrenia, was out of work for six years before the trust took him on as a part-time occupational therapist helper in a music workshop. "I just can't believe that I am actually doing a job that I like and that it's helping others who are suffering from the same kind of illness that I did," he said.

Although some staff members were initially resistant to the policy, believing that it would lead to a rise in sick leave, their fears have been unfounded. Dr Perkins said that, if anything, levels of sick leave had fallen.

Dr Perkins said that the trust was so pleased with the project that it was seeking to recruit a further 20 or 25 people with mental health problems.



Jennifer Hilsdon with Matthew yesterday. He was found two miles from home

## Baby found dumped in alley after car theft

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A TEN-MONTH-OLD baby was found crawling in an alleyway after being abandoned by car thieves. Jennifer Hilsdon had left her son, Matthew, asleep in his car seat while she checked that the house was locked.

When she returned to the driveway of their home in Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire, a few moments later, she discovered that the MG Maestro had gone.

Twenty minutes later, a woman walking a dog found Matthew crawling in an alleyway two miles away in Hemel Hempstead. The thieves had unfastened the seat, allowing him to crawl away.

Yesterday Mrs Hilsdon, 34, said: "I had left the keys in the ignition and had just gone into the house to check everything was locked. I went outside and thought, 'Why has my husband moved the car?' Then it sunk in. I was frantic with worry.

"It didn't bear thinking what would have happened to him if they had crashed. They hid the car-seat, undid the straps and just let him crawl off. He could have crawled anywhere — he was not far from a main road. It is horrendous to think what might have happened."

Witnesses saw a red Ford Escort in convoy with the stolen MG Maestro. The Escort had also been stolen earlier in the day. Both cars were later found abandoned in Hemel Hempstead.

□ A baby was dumped on a pavement by a thief who ran off with his pushchair. Marie Davies found her 13-month-old son, Daniel, lying on the ground when she came out of a corner shop in Cardiff.

## Mother wins maternity pay claim

A woman has won her claim that Tesco wrongly denied her maternity pay. Deborah Banks earned £56 a week in Gillingham, Kent, which was £1 under the threshold for statutory maternity pay. She claimed discrimination because a man was entitled to maternity pay regardless of earnings. An industrial tribunal in Ashford found that Tesco was wrong to pay fathers but not mothers.

### Driver jailed

A motorist who pointed a starting pistol at the head of a teenage driver was jailed at the Old Bailey for 12 months. She had hooted at Geoffrey Wheeler, 36, of Woking, Surrey, because his car was blocking the road.

### Boy dies in silo

James McKay, 14, from Weymouth, Dorset, who was on work experience, died when he fell into a grain silo on a local farm. Firemen worked for two hours to empty the 25ft silo, but the boy was dead when they got to him.

### Flying fish

A North Korean fisherman who received head injuries when he was hit by some frozen squid off the Falkland Islands was flown unconscious to Britain by the RAF and recovered in the John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford.

### Double strike

Lightning struck two neighbouring houses at Margate, Kent, within 20 minutes. Kent Fire Brigade, which tackled fires at both houses, said: "The chances of this happening must be a million to one." Both houses were empty.

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Boy dies in sick  
  
Flying fish



An infra-red image shows cloud layers over an area of equatorial Jupiter 34,000km by 11,000. The bluish clouds are high and thin, the reddish ones low and the white high and thick. The dark blue spot is a hole in the deep cloud

By NIGEL HAWKES  
SCIENCE EDITOR

**PACKING** the picnic basket this weekend, you may well be worrying what the weather has in store. Be thankful that Earth does not share the climate of Jupiter, where, according to scientists, storms can last for centuries.

There is much more moisture on the planet than was thought when a probe from the Galileo spacecraft plunged into the Jovian

atmosphere in December, 1995. In fact, according to Andrew Ingersoll, of the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena, "Jupiter is wet." It seems that the probe hit a dry spot, surrounded by areas a hundred times wetter, containing clouds and rain. "We had suspected the probe landed in the Sahara desert of Jupiter," Dr

Ingersoll said. "The new data show there is moisture in the surrounding areas." The new picture that has emerged suggests that the moisture content of the Jovian atmosphere varies at least as much as it does on Earth, with thunderstorms, lightning and rain. But in contrast to Earth, "individual Jovi-

an storms and weather systems last months, years, or even centuries," Dr Ingersoll said.

Robert Carlson, an investigator for Galileo's Near Infra-red Mapping Spectrometer, showed a press conference a weather map of an expanse of Jupiter the size of South America. It included bone-dry areas with 1 per cent humidity,

hove, Dr Ingersoll said. "While we might imagine an advanced life-form that could adapt, pre-biotic compounds could not survive in that environment and, therefore, evolution could not take place."

When the Galileo probe failed to find water, scientists put forward two possible explanations. Either

all the water had been concentrated in Jupiter's interior as it formed, leaving none in the upper atmosphere, or the dryness was caused by a local weather anomaly. Based on the latest data, it turns out that the latter is true.

The dry spots, one of which the probe hit, cover less than one hundredth of the planet's surface. Scientists at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory believe they are caused by winds converging and creating a huge down draught.

## The giant planet where a shower can last a century

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

**AN ISLAMIC** boarding school may be refused government registration after inspectors found that it was a threat to pupils' health and safety. Their report also criticised teaching standards.

Pupils at the Islamic Institute in Nottinghamshire were sleeping in dormitories with bins containing "smelly food waste". Health arrangements were unsatisfactory, with no school nurse or sick room.

Social services and teaching inspectors visited the 85-pupil school after previous inspections had raised "serious concerns". The school, which opened three years ago in former RAF offices in the village of Flintham, had been granted provisional registration by the Department for Education and Employment.

The Office for Standards in Education's report, published yesterday, found the overall standard of teaching unsatisfactory and pupils' achievement lower than expected of 11 to 16-year-olds. Even the Islamic curriculum, which in-

cluded tuition in Arabic and Urdu, was poor.

The report's most serious criticisms related to the state of the premises. There were too few showers to ensure personal cleanliness; a system by which pupils were responsible for cleaning their own rooms was ineffective.

The report said: "There are no proper arrangements for the disposal of rubbish, including food waste from pupils' rooms and dormitories. This results in pupils sleeping in the same room as full waste bins containing smelly food waste. There is also an accumulation of such rubbish and broken glass outside dormitory windows. At the time of the fire drill, during the inspection, pupils had to walk in bare feet through this dangerous and unhygienic mess."

Although the inspectors acknowledged that some improvements had been made, they found that the school did not meet legal requirements governing the welfare and safety of pupils. As well as

improving cleanliness and ensuring that boarders were properly supervised, the school was ordered to provide activities during pupils' free time and at weekends.

The school attracts Islamic pupils from several Continental countries, although the majority are British Muslims. Parents answering a questionnaire issued by the inspectors were overwhelmingly supportive of the institute, where fees of £1,300 a year are supplemented by donations.

Mohammad, the head teacher, said many of the concerns had been addressed. "There is a 70 per cent difference between now and then, and the inspectors are much happier now."

However, a spokesman for the ministry said: "We are naturally concerned about the weaknesses identified in the report. Officials will be writing to the school seeking a commitment on remedial action." They would then consider what further steps might be necessary.

Environmental health inspectors from Manchester City Council will monitor the ingredients, which will be placed inside 5,000 pitta bread loaves. Any leftovers will go to animal sanctuaries.

## Vegetarians aim to feed 5,000 on giant salad

By RUSSELL JENKINS

**VEGETARIANS** hope to make the world's biggest salad at the first national vegetarian food festival in Manchester today.

Lorries will be ferrying 30 tonnes of iceberg lettuces, tomatoes, mushrooms and celery to the "Vegfest" site in Castlefield. There the ingredients will be tossed with 500 litres of vinaigrette. The record of 28 tonnes belongs to the United States.

The salad, mixed in a Roman trough lined with plastic and served free to festival-goers, is the highlight of National Vegetarian Week, which ends tomorrow and marks the 150th anniversary of The Vegetarian Society.

Steve Connor, one of the festival organisers, said: "It has been quite poor growing season early on, so we have had to raid the last stocks of iceberg lettuces around the country to try for the world record."

Environmental health inspectors from Manchester City Council will monitor the ingredients, which will be placed inside 5,000 pitta bread loaves. Any leftovers will go to animal sanctuaries.

## Dons find holes in scheme for Fitzwilliam Museum extension

By MARCUS BINNEY

**THE** Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge is under fierce attack for wanting to cut a huge hole in one of its historic facades.

The museum is the masterpiece of George Basevi. Sir John Soane's favourite pupil. Begun in 1834, it has long been acknowledged as the most imposing classical museum in Britain after the British Museum.

No fewer than six additions have been made to the south of the museum since 1920, but now the Fitzwilliam Syndics (as the museum's trustees are quaintly known) have proposed a new addition to the hitherto untouched north flank. This has aroused opposition from the architecturally minded dons of Peterhouse, who are outraged at the pros-

pect of a plainly detailed stone box looming into view in front of Basevi's design of imperial grandeur.

The architects of the new extension are John Miller and Partners. They claim that the extension, set back 35 yards from the road on which the museum stands, will be barely visible to the passer-by. Much of the new accommodation will be underground.

Duncan Robinson, the museum's director, vigorously denies he will be destroying original stonework. "Visitors will enter the new pavilion through an existing tall window aperture. It will be like the Sackler Galleries at the Royal Academy, with the stonework of both old and new buildings visible through a glass link." Members of the university have written to the

Senate claiming damage will be permanent and the solution short term in relation to the museum's constant needs for increased space.

The position and size of the new pavilion is based on a drawing by Basevi showing a pair of wings in outline, though it could be argued that, by indicating such small wings, set so far back, he was simply showing his dictate for any additions at all. The new accommodation is required principally for the museum's fine collection of coins and medals, but will also provide much needed conservation studios as well as disabled access.

Gareth Jones, QC, the university Vice-Chancellor, who is chairman of the Syndics, said: "Like the additions of 80 years ago, the new wing aims at dignified simplicity so as not to compete in any way with the richness of Basevi's facades." The Fitzwilliam is unlikely to have an easy passage. The Victorian Society said it was "sharpening the knives". English Heritage has referred a decision to a full meeting of its commissioners.

Giles Worsley, editor of *Perspectives*, commented: "The design is neither one thing nor the other. It's just another pale extension in conservation-speak. If they're going to build at all, they should carry on in Basevi's spirit."

No one can seriously claim that Mr Miller's discreet and ingeniously planned addition is a monstrous carbuncle, but at £10.9 million it is quite an expensive pimple.

John Adamson, page 22

## Inspectors attack poor conditions at Islamic school

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

**CLUDED** tuition in Arabic and Urdu, was poor.

The report's most serious criticisms related to the state of the premises. There were too few showers to ensure personal cleanliness; a system by which pupils were responsible for cleaning their own rooms was ineffective.

The report said: "There are no proper arrangements for the disposal of rubbish, including food waste from pupils' rooms and dormitories. This results in pupils sleeping in the same room as full waste bins containing smelly food waste. There is also an accumulation of such rubbish and broken glass outside dormitory windows. At the time of the fire drill, during the inspection, pupils had to walk in bare feet through this dangerous and unhygienic mess."

Although the inspectors acknowledged that some improvements had been made, they found that the school did not meet legal requirements governing the welfare and safety of pupils. As well as

improving cleanliness and ensuring that boarders were properly supervised, the school was ordered to provide activities during pupils' free time and at weekends.

The school attracts Islamic pupils from several Continental countries, although the majority are British Muslims. Parents answering a questionnaire issued by the inspectors were overwhelmingly supportive of the institute, where fees of £1,300 a year are supplemented by donations.

Mohammad, the head teacher, said many of the concerns had been addressed. "There is a 70 per cent difference between now and then, and the inspectors are much happier now."

However, a spokesman for the ministry said: "We are naturally concerned about the weaknesses identified in the report. Officials will be writing to the school seeking a commitment on remedial action." They would then consider what further steps might be necessary.

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Demands to relax protection laws could renew threat to rhinos, elephants and jaguars

## Southern Africa calls for lifting of ivory trade ban

By NICK HUTTALL  
ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

PROPOSALS to cull white rhinos, allow jaguar hunting and for a renewal of ivory trading are expected to cause a storm at an international wildlife trade conference starting tomorrow.

Three African countries — Botswana, Namibia and Zimbabwe — are pressing for a partial lifting of the worldwide ban on trading ivory, imposed in 1989. They are supported by South Africa and Japan, the biggest customer.

The move would allow the nations to sell stockpiled ivory to Japan in sealed containers. But critics fear the move could create an incentive for poachers to shoot elephants.

The Japanese use the ivory for *hanko*, the seals used on documents instead of signatures. Intensive lobbying by the *hanko* industry, which employs about 30,000 people, has paid off. Last autumn the Japanese Government told visiting Namibian leaders that Japan supported a resumption of trading.

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species being held in Harare, Zimbabwe, will also hear a proposal from South Africa



South African officials want to cull the white rhino

for the trade ban on rhino horn to be partially lifted for its population of the southern white species.

South Africa's rhino population has soared from a low of less than 20 to over 7,500 and officials want a cull. But there are concerns that approving the plan will again give incentives to poachers to step up attacks on populations elsewhere in Africa and Asia.

The Venezuelans want to "down-list" the jaguar so that big-game hunters from America and Europe can shoot them and take trophies home.

British officials say it may prove impossible to guarantee that ivory shipped to Japan is coming from stockpiles.

The conference, however, will also hear some proposals

for tighter controls. Crackdowns on the poaching of sturgeon for blackmarket caviar and the uncontrolled trade in tropical mahogany are being backed by Britain.

Wildlife groups and several governments are becoming increasingly concerned about the plight of the sturgeon, which is being overfished. Experts say that species including the Russian sturgeon and beluga face extinction without tougher controls.

Britain and wildlife groups including the World Wide Fund for Nature are backing a proposal by the United States and Germany to bring in international trade controls on all species. The Department of the Environment said that the move would require exports of caviar to have trade and import permits.

Britain is also backing a move to get tighter trade controls on "big leaf" mahogany, in an attempt to reduce over-exploitation.

□ A nest of goshawk eggs, one of Scotland's rarest birds of prey, has been destroyed by vandals, near the Borders village of Walkerburn. Police are hunting the raiders who could face fines of £40,000.

Jungle dinner, Weekend, page 14



A renewal of ivory trading would endanger Africa's elephants, say conservationists

Protesters start second week locked in tunnel

By STEPHEN FARRELL

FOUR protesters blocking Manchester airport's second runway passed a milestone yesterday by spending a week underground in a fortified tunnel.

Denise, Muppet Dave, Neville and Matt — a pregnant nurse, two former soldiers and an NHS auditor — are beneath a hillside in the Bollin Valley, near Styall, Cheshire. They are the last of 100 activists removed from trees and tunnels by bailiffs in an operation that has cost police £380,000. They claim to have enough food for another week. Fresh air is being pumped in by sheriff's officers.

The tunnel narrows to less than 1ft wide in places. It is lined with four tons of concrete at the entrance and has more than a dozen metal-reinforced doors, whose hinges and supports are linked to props holding up the tunnel ceiling.

All four protesters have concrete "lock-ons", to which they will attach themselves when bailiffs break through. Muppet Dave, 30, whose real name is David Howarth, said: "We can stay here for as long as it takes."

Randal Hibbert, Under-Sheriff of Cheshire, conceded that the eviction could be slow. "It will take a long time to get through all the doors — probably four or five days."

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Leader of Evangelical Alliance praises courage behind his appointment

## Black evangelist hails Church for tackling racism

By ROBIN YOUNG

A MINISTER appointed to lead the Evangelical Alliance in the United Kingdom said yesterday that he regarded his life as "a pilgrimage of one black man in a white-led evangelical community", and his nomination should be seen as a signal that the Christian Church was willing to tackle the issue of race courageously.

The Rev Joel Edwards, 45, from Leytonstone in east London, becomes one of the most senior black church leaders in Britain. A former probation officer at Holloway prison, minister of the New Testament Church of God in Mile End and secretary-general of the African & Caribbean Evangelical Alliance, he was the unanimous choice to be general director.

Mark Bingham, the alliance executive chairman, said:

"When we first asked for nominations, the name of Joel Edwards was by far the most frequently mentioned."

Mr Edwards, whose origins are in the pentecostal branch of evangelism, resigned from his church in Mile End last year to spend longer on his work with the alliance, having been UK director since 1992.

The New Testament Church of God has 7,000 members, and is one of the most vigorous pentecostal churches among the African-Caribbean community. The Evangelical Alliance unites 3,000 churches, 800 societies and 56,000 people.

Mr Edwards said that he viewed his new job with "reparation, joy and excitement". He said: "The 20th century has to a large extent been a celebration of the death

of God, but now we have reached a time of universal searching."

"We also have to contend with biblical illiteracy and to find a working partnership with people, Christians or not, who want a better society. I want evangelicals to be a people of proclamation, with something of relevance to say to contemporary society."

"We have to show that it is not an irrelevance to talk about the Cross and the suffering of Christ. We must be prophetic people, people who spread pulse beat religion."

Mr Edwards, who is married and has a son "aged between 18 and 28" and a daughter of 15, said that large parts of society drew its moral values from television soap operas such as *EastEnders*.

Mr Edwards came to Eng-



The Rev Joel Edwards at Church House, with Westminster Abbey in the background

land from Jamaica in 1960. During his early years black churches offered a haven for people who had nowhere else to go. "Church provided solace for many people and kept them alive during those early, difficult days of immigration. It was the place that many early arrivals made sense of their lives amid the racism which often greeted them."

One of only two black

children at his first school in Kentish Town, north London, Mr Edwards came to faith after a friend challenged him to go forward at an evangelistic meeting. "I did not really pray, but I had a profound conversion experience."

"I cried for an hour. It was as if a ten-tonne load had lifted off me."

He became head boy of Sir William Collins secondary

## Credo Ruth's faithful path to God

Albert Friedlander

In the Jewish tradition, we count seven weeks — if anything but death parts us from me" (Ruth 1, 16, 17).

Faith in God and acceptance of the divine plan are the heart of the story. It is shaped as a folk tale, with the structure and logic of a storyteller's art. But it is

religious history at its finest, creating a family tree for King David with the intimations of a coming messianic time. When we read it today, we might even sense the stirring of interfaith dialogue.

Some years ago, the late Donald Swann and I joined in creating a cantata that we called *The Five Seasons of God*. I wrote the texts and Donald composed the music. We dealt with the five scrolls of the Bible. Donald wanted it to reflect on the seasons, particularly since the three Pilgrim Festivals celebrate harvest times.

But there are five scrolls — and so we called Ruth: "The fifth season: God's time!" And that is, after all, Shavuot: God calls everyone to accept the Law — and Ruth leads the way.

Rabbi Professor Albert Friedlander is Dean of Leo Baeck College, Finchley, north London, and Rabbi of Westminster Synagogue.

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# Irvine says justice reform must offer value for money

By FRANCES GIBB  
 LEGAL CORRESPONDENT



Lord Irvine: announced a review of reforms

THE Lord Chancellor sent out a clear message yesterday that the Government will proceed with proposed reforms to cut the delay and expense in civil justice, but only where they were cost-effective.

In his first initiative since Labour took power, Lord Irvine of Lairg announced that he had appointed a top banker to see if Lord Woolf's proposals, published last summer, were "workable and likely to be cost-effective".

Any abandonment of the reforms could bring the Lord Chancellor into conflict with senior judges. Yesterday Lord Woolf, the Master of the Rolls, warned the Government not to "cherry-pick" his reforms but to take the package as a whole. Sir Richard Scott, the Vice-Chancellor, who is in charge of implementing the reforms, said that if the opportunity were not seized now,

public expenditure ceilings". The joint review, a Labour manifesto commitment, will examine whether the Woolf proposals are the right way to reduce the cost, delay and complexity of civil litigation.

Its second aim, Lord Irvine said, was to "gain better control of the cost of legal aid, better value for money for the resources available, and the ability to target those resources on the areas of greatest need".

He denied that the review — to report by September — was in any way a nod to Lord Woolf, whose proposals to transform the culture of civil litigation were published after two years' consultation. He said that he had a duty to ensure that public funds were well spent and made clear that he was ready to proceed with some measures and not others. He did not believe that the reforms had to be treated as a package.

"I share the objectives of the current reform proposals," he said. "I of course want in see the cost, delays and complexity of civil litigation reduced." But he said that he was "required to be satisfied that the existing proposals, or the existing proposals in modified form, can really be expected to deliver those objectives."

He said that no extra funds would be forthcoming and that proposals such as training of judges and computerisation of the courts come "with a price tag" which, if adopted, would be at the expense of other parts of the budget.

But he accepted that the momentum of reform should not be held up and that, pending the review, the changes now being made should continue. "Whether or not I was to give Lord Woolf my blessing, some reforms such as the Civil Justice Council and the combined set of rules [for the High Court and county courts] are going to happen in any event."

On legal aid, he said that some of the proposals in the previous Government's White Paper were a "dead letter", such as requiring everyone on legal aid, even those on income support, to contribute to their costs. But others deserved consideration.

Earlier yesterday, at a conference organised by the College of Law, Lord Woolf spoke against the "cherry picking" of his proposals. He said, however, that he understood that Lord Irvine accepted the spirit of the reforms and accepted that he had to satisfy himself that they were "financially worthwhile". But the system would "only work if reformed as a whole".

Lord Richard advised against delay, saying that the "irons of reform had been thrust into the forge and are ready to be fashioned into a civil justice system fit for the next century". The irons should be struck while still hot and malleable.

1. The Lord Chancellor will brief selected journalists at 1200 on Friday 6 June at the House of Lords on the terms of his review of civil justice and legal aid reforms to which the Government made known its commitment in the Labour Party manifesto: "Labour will undertake a wide-ranging review both of the reform of the civil justice system and legal aid."

2. The Lord Chancellor will not take questions on any other subject than the review, and journalists who accept this briefing do so on these terms.

3. The Lord Chancellor will be on the record.

4. The Lord Chancellor will not give any one-to-one interviews.

5. Tape recorders are allowed, but not cameras.

6. Invited journalists should arrive at HGL at 1150. The briefing will start at 1200 and finish at 1300.

7. Substitutes will not be admitted.

Rule of law: restrictions for the media briefing

## Curbs placed on press inquiries

By OUR LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Government's attempts to exert a firm grip on the media were demonstrated by the Lord Chancellor's Department yesterday at the first meeting between the press and Lord Irvine of Lairg.

"Selected" journalists invited to the briefing had a list of do's and don'ts fixed to them personally the night before. "The Lord Chancellor will not take questions on any other subject than the [civil justice] review, and journalists who accept this briefing do so on these terms," it said.

There was an implied threat that any journalist who breached the conditions might have facilities withdrawn. Downing Street has already been accused of exerting overbearing central control of government departments. But it is unapologetic, saying it has no intention of abandoning in government the discipline that helped it to its huge election victory.

Lord Irvine was equally

unapologetic about the terms of his briefing, the toughest and most restrictive that any minister has issued since the election. "The great merit of formal conditions is that they make the terms under which the interview is given clear beyond any possible misunderstanding," he said.

"I always like people to know exactly where I am coming from and it involves avoidance of misunderstanding." No further questions on that subject were permitted.

In the past, attempts by press officers to lay down terms for questions to ministers at press conferences have failed because reporters have refused to observe them.

Lord Irvine said that he would make himself available to journalists at a later date. But those present were left wondering if this would depend on the nature of their coverage. His press officer said: "I look forward to seeing what you all write tomorrow."



## Lawyers form the heart of Blair Government

LORD IRVINE OF LAIRG, the Lord Chancellor, is to chair up to four Cabinet committees in a Government which includes many lawyers, particularly barristers.

Underlining the links between the Government and the legal profession, Lord Irvine will be chairman of the committee on devolution and of a subcommittee of the main constitutional reform committee, and is chairing the committee dealing with the Queen's Speech and future legislation. The Lord Chancellor might also be asked to chair the freedom of information committee, and is a member of five other Cabinet committees.

Lord Irvine's role in the Government therefore is pivotal, both formally and in view of his long friendship with the Prime Minister, to whom he has been a mentor since Tony Blair

began working in his chambers. It also cements a new and special relationship between the Bar and the Government, with, most unusually, both the Prime Minister and the Lord Chancellor coming from the ranks of the practising bar. Mr Blair plucked his Solicitor-General, now Lord Falconer of Thoroton, direct from practice as a top commercial QC.

The Government now has a free source of excellent legal advice. Jack Straw, the Home Secretary and himself a barrister, admitted the benefits when at a social occasion he intro-

duced Lord Williams of Mostyn, QC, a former Bar chairman, and an Under-Secretary of State at the Home Office. With Lord Williams around, Mr Straw joked, he would not have to spend all that taxpayers' money on expensive QC's at the Temple.

Policy should now attract top-quality scrutiny. But the tendency of lawyers to become bogged down in minutiae will have to be tempered if government plans are not to be delayed.

Other ministers who are lawyers include Alistair Darling, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, and Donald

Devar, Scottish Secretary; Mike O'Brien, the Immigration Minister, and Geoff Hoon, a Parliamentary Secretary in the Lord Chancellor's Department, who are both solicitors. By tradition, the law officers are barristers at other departments. Harriet Harman, the Social Security Secretary is a solicitor, and so is Paul Boateng, a junior Health Minister.

The House of Lords, too, has its Labour legal eagles, with Lord Williams, and Lord Richard, QC, Lord Privy Seal and Leader of the House. The Law Society parliamentary unit lists 29 solicitor-MPs, and the Bar lists 42 barristers or advocates.

For the legal profession, the close links are good news. The Bar is confident that Lord Irvine will ditch some aspects of the previous Government's proposed legal aid reforms.

# WHEN INVESTING IN A WORLD FAMOUS ASSET, YOU NEED A PROVEN, SKILLED WORKFORCE ON TAP

When North West Water invested £230 million in one of the country's most ambitious engineering projects, to clean up the Mersey Estuary, a proven, committed workforce was vital.

A decade ago the Mersey was one of Europe's dirtiest rivers, but not any longer. North West Water has built a massive 19 kilometre tunnel diverting sewage from The River Mersey via 28 outfall pipes to the new treatment works at Sandon Dock in Liverpool.

To run such a huge and vital operation requires a skilled and highly trained workforce. For example, employees responsible for the day to day running of the treatment works are now qualified to BTEC standard, and make key operational decisions. Clear proof not only of the team's ability to handle a highly demanding job, but of each individual's personal long-term commitment.

The qualification is much more than a piece of paper - it means that the team can work effectively with less supervision - better performance all round.

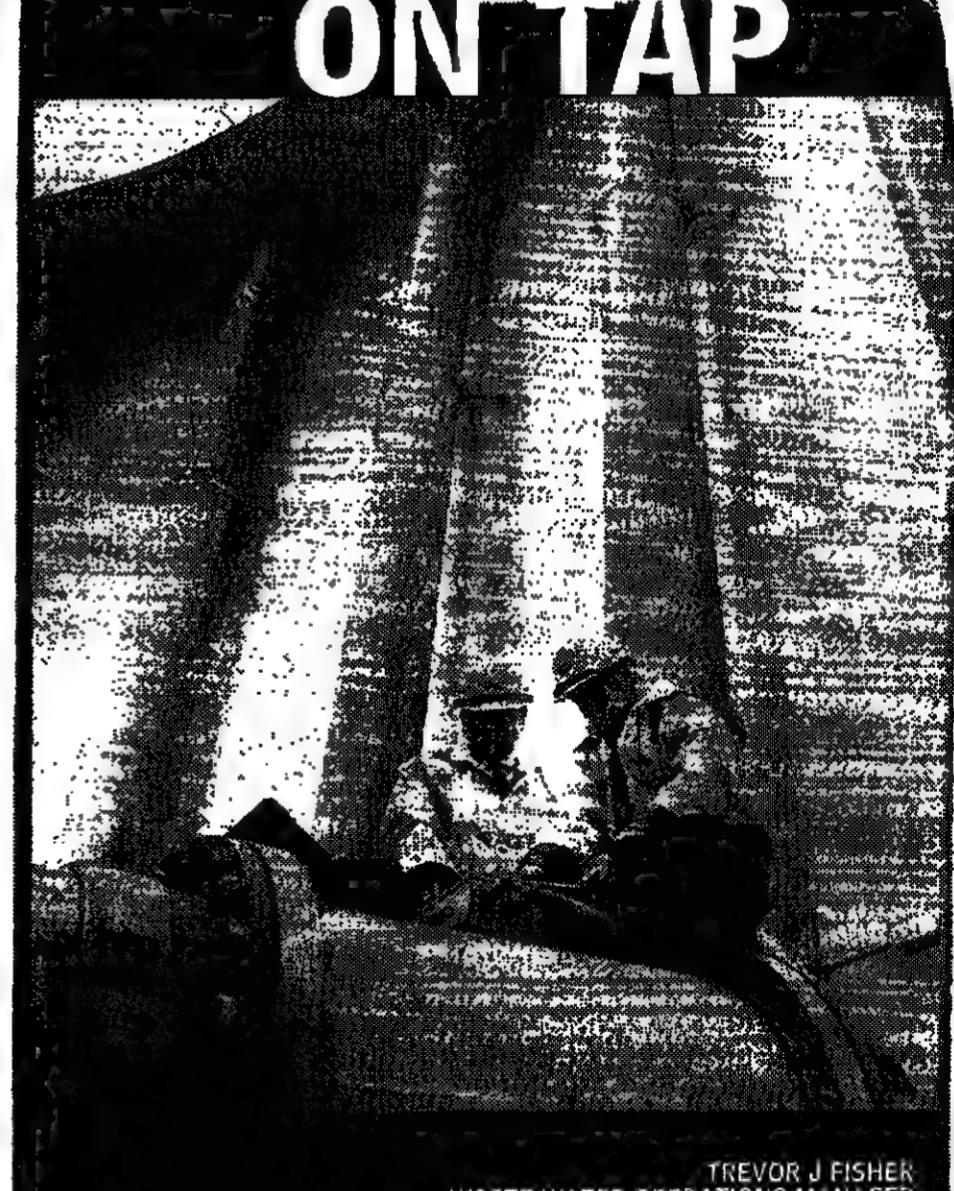
**"We operate under close public scrutiny; such a high-profile needs highly skilled people to make it happen. We found those people on Merseyside".**

The results of the Mersey Estuary improvements are easy to see - ask any fisherman. Indeed, 35 species of fish are now found in the Estuary - compared with around seven in the Seventies, which is clear evidence of the success in reclaiming the Mersey for those living in, on and beside one of the world's most famous rivers.

**"The return on the investment in our workforce has been immediate. We couldn't deliver the high quality service we do 24 hours a day, 365 days a year without an equally high calibre workforce".**

North West Water, part of United Utilities, has responsibility for one of the most fundamental elements of life; what the company does, how its workforce performs, affects the quality of life not just this year but for a lifetime.

The fish in the Mersey know nothing about BTEC qualifications or engineering excellence. They just enjoy the benefits.



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# Fraternal Blair confirms split with Jospin dogma

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

THE language was fraternal, but a gulf as wide as the Channel was on display in Sweden yesterday when the new Prime Ministers of Britain and France paraded their respective creeds for European prosperity.

At the Social Democrats' Congress in Malmö, Lionel Jospin and Tony Blair joined in the chorus of delight over the new ascendancy of the Left in European Union governments and both emphasised their devotion to the paramount goal of promoting jobs. However, their approaches were worlds apart. Favourite buzzwords spoke for the contrast between new Labour's business-friendly recipes and the classic Keynesian promises of state intervention that carried M Jospin to power.

For Mr Blair, "flexibility" was the golden road that the Left must take to "modernise or die". M Jospin avoided the f-word, which in French left-wing ears indicates the excesses of Anglo-Saxon liberalism. He preferred to trumpet the need for "solidarity" and "citizenship", continental code for shoring up the welfare state and protecting people against the excesses of the globalised economy. "Now we have a situation of high unemployment and low growth, increasing impoverishment... and given that background, we can no longer just concentrate on the economy to the detriment of people and their social concerns," M Jospin said.

"Europe will get back on track for growth only if we can make short-term non-profitable investments now." That reflected the new French Government's promises to restart the economy by raising wages

and creating 700,000 jobs for the young, half in the public sector.

Mr Blair, speaking in the knowledge that Britain's unemployment level is just over half that of France, pleaded for a "third way" that shunned both uncaring capitalism and old-style socialism.

"Sometimes over the last decade we looked like defenders of a fading industrial past," Mr Blair declared. The new way "means flexible labour markets, investment in education and skills and en-



Sometimes we looked like defenders of a fading industrial past



Nation states remain the historic centre of democracy

The new way means flexible labour markets, investment in education and skills?

suring that we are developing the type of welfare state that is compatible with what is a completely different set of economic conditions today."

M Jospin, whose Cabinet includes a batch of fervent Europeans, among them Elisabeth Guigou, the leading French negotiator of the Maastricht treaty, said that the key to a strong EU was answering the insecurity felt by its peoples. He also showed that he was no apostle of federalism. "Europe cannot replace nations," he said. "Nation states remain the historic centre of democracy."

"The new way," Mr Blair said, "is about education, skills, new technology, developing small businesses and

protecting people against the excesses of the globalised economy. "Now we have a situation of high unemployment and low growth, increasing impoverishment... and given that background, we can no longer just concentrate on the economy to the detriment of people and their social concerns," M Jospin said.

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Entente, not always cordiale: a stern Helmut Kohl confronts Lady Thatcher and, top right, Neville Chamberlain felt betrayed by Hitler. While, above, Winston Churchill got on relatively well with Germany's first post-war Chancellor, Konrad Adenauer



Entente, not always cordiale: a stern Helmut Kohl confronts Lady Thatcher and, top right, Neville Chamberlain felt betrayed by Hitler. While, above, Winston Churchill got on relatively well with Germany's first post-war Chancellor, Konrad Adenauer

## Unsteady hand of Anglo-German friendship

FROM ROGER BOTES  
IN BONN

## COMMENTARY

The giant paw of Helmut Kohl yesterday enveloped Tony Blair's hand and both men offered frozen smiles in the name of Anglo-German friendship. The Prime Minister did not go all the way: he did not sit on the German Chancellor's knee. Fortunately, pre-summit rumours that Herr Kohl would pose on Mr Blair's lap — a token of the shifting balance between London and Bonn — proved to be mere mischief.

"I am confident that we will come to have a good relationship," Mr Blair wrote in the mass circulation *Bild* yesterday, indicating there was some work to be done before he could mimic John Major's "my dear friend Helmut". The Chancellor — her name again pushed its way into his speech this week to international bankers in Interlaken — and his advisers will be watching carefully to see if Mr Blair adopts Thatcherite bargaining postures in Europe.

A certain wariness has always dogged the friendship between British and German leaders. Disraeli was quick to spot the significance of the Franco-Prussian war. "This war represents the German Revolution, a greater political event than the French Revolution last century," Bismarck told Germans to watch out for the "old Jew" Disraeli which was as close to open admiration as a 19th century Prussian Junker could come: his policy

towards Britain however remained one of "friendly indifference".

Hitler and Neville Chamberlain were not, of course, a match made in heaven. The relationship did expose a certain Anglo-German pattering.

Appeasement arose out of a sense of guilt that the terms of Versailles after the First World War had been too harsh (historian Michael Howard calls it peace guilt).

Chamberlain thus fell personally hurt when he was betrayed by Hitler.

Lady Thatcher would never have slipped into that trap. But her resolute hostility to the Chancellor (*He is so German!*) did not achieve much either. Somewhere between best friend and historic foe it should be possible to strike up a personal relationship with a German leader that really benefits Britain.



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Firm that pioneered 'trade not aid' accused of failing to honour Amazon contracts

## Sacked crusader for tribes wins Body Shop case

THE Body Shop cosmetics company has been ordered to pay \$80,000 (£49,000) for the "unfair dismissal" of a Brazilian whom it had employed to mediate with the Kayapo Indians, who produce the Brazil nut oil used to make a bestselling hair conditioner.

Judge Miguel Raimundo Viegas Peixoto, in the Amazonian city of Conceição do Araguaia, ordered the Body Shop to pay Saulo Petean, a specialist in indigenous tribes, the money in compensation for unfair dismissal, unpaid social security contributions, bonus pay and tax contributions required by Brazilian labour laws.

A Body Shop International representative in Britain said that the company has appealed against the decision.

Blaire Plaistie, Body Shop International spokeswoman, said: "We are concerned by the decision, and believe that he was a contracted person rather than a full-time staff member."

In his ruling, Judge Peixoto said the Body Shop had "sought every way to mask the employment link to free itself of its legal responsibilities". The judge ruled that testimony to prove otherwise, brought forward by the Body Shop, was "entirely fragile and contradictory" and that the company had failed to justify Senhor Petean's dismissal in January 1990.

The Body Shop began a "trade not aid" agreement with the Kayapo, a tribe of Amazonian Indians, in 1990,



Gabriella Gamini reports from Rio de Janeiro on the souring of a commercial deal with endangered Indians

and employed Senhor Petean, who has lived for 20 years with Brazilian tribes, to mediate and help to manage the link. But the relationship soured.

Senhor Petean, 45, lives among the Kayapo Indians in their small jungle villages in the south of the state of Pará,

**We thought it would be an economic alternative to save our habitat**

for six months of the year. The rest of the year he spends in the town of Redenção, the nearest to the remote Kayapo villages, where he has set up a company with the Indians to sell Brazil nut oil, eco-friendly holidays in the villages, and handicrafts.

The debate about whether the Kayapo's trading link with the multimillion dollar cosmetics company has been beneficial to the tribe has been raging for months. Dozens of

smiling, painted faces had greeted Anita Rodrik, the Body Shop's founder, when she first visited the remote Indian villages of A-Ukre and Pukanu in Amazon rainforest, nearly seven years ago, and proposed the innovative agreement.

The company would buy oil produced from the Brazil nuts, and the income generated would go towards improving the health and social conditions of the endangered tribe. The Body Shop advertised worldwide that its bestselling hair conditioner was made with oil produced by endangered Kayapo Indians, giving the product a marketable "ecological" tag.

It was the Kayapo's first formal trade link with white society. Hailed as a landmark for the proponents of ethical trade, it seemed to promise an "economic alternative" for the Amazonian Indians, who had for long fallen prey to illegal timber merchants and gold prospectors.

But years on, this relationship also seems to have soured. The chiefs of the two villages have complained about their people having to work too hard for too little. Skeptical of the intentions of most white people, they have



Anita Rodrik, the founder of the Body Shop, in 1992 with the Kayapo Indians she had pledged to save

said that the deal with the company, which prides itself on ethical trade, is a form of "white men's commercial exploitation".

Chief Paulinho Paiakan, of the A-Ukre village, said during a meeting with other tribal chiefs a year ago: "We thought it would be an economic alternative to help us to preserve our habitat and make us economically independent from our old enemies. But it has not turned out quite so. We see this as business with people who want to make a profit from us. It's just another form of white men's commercial exploitation."

Chief Pykary-Re, whose picture making a "thumb's up" gesture appeared in some of the Body Shop's outlets across 46 countries, said many of his tribespeople had become dissatisfied with the Brazil nut oil trade and that nut oil workers had demanded higher prices for their product.

"We want to make oil because we need the income and are desperate. But my people are angry because the benefits from the hard work required in harvesting Brazil nuts have reached only a minority," he said.

The villagers claimed that the \$70,000 earned by each village from selling 4,000kg of Brazil nut oil every year is not enough for every 700 people living in the two villages. They

also blamed tribal infighting on the fact that only two of 20 Kayapo villages, in the reserve area, were chosen to deal with the Body Shop.

The company says that it has never committed itself to dealing with all the villages. But this seems to have become an "expectation" among the Kayapo. About 4,000 Kayapo Indians live in the Amazon rainforest and 300 work directly with Brazil nut harvests.

Chief Pykary-Re also said that health and education projects, which were promised by the Body Shop as part of the agreement, have not materialised.

The Body Shop commissioned an internal report in

1995, having recognised that "there were problems and issues to be addressed in the project", and contracts had been inadequate.

The Body Shop strongly rejected criticisms of its trade link with the Kayapo. Adrian Hodges, a Body Shop spokesman in the UK, said the company had taken "appropriate action" on the report's recommendations, such as installing a new management structure with consultants working directly with Brazil's official body representing indigenous groups. "We carry on helping developing the project at a considerable cost to the business," Mr Hodges said.

## Germany to scrutinise Scientology

Bonn: Germany is to place the Church of Scientology under nationwide observation by federal and state anti-extremist watchdogs.

Manfred Kanther, the federal Interior Minister, and Germany's 16 regional states said in a statement that a working group had found that sufficient suspicion of anti-democratic intent existed for them legally to place Scientology, which Germany does not recognise as a religion, under surveillance. (Reuters)

## Tanker blast

Lagos: An oil tanker exploded and caught fire in the bay off Lagos, sending hundreds of workers in the city centre rushing from their offices in panic. Shipping authorities said the vessel, *al-Zenab*, was empty when fire broke out of Atlas Cove jetty. A Nigerian official said it had not yet been established if there had been any casualties. (Reuters)

## Skyway robbery

Bogotá: The pilot of a helicopter laden with more than £300,000 in cash told police he was shot down and robbed on the Colombian capital's eastern outskirts. The police said the pilot and two crew members were being questioned about whether the shots were sufficient to bring down the machine. (Reuters)

## Missile strike

Ankara: General Erol Ozkan said Kurdish rebels had used SA7 missiles to shoot down two Turkish army helicopters in northern Iraq. The Turkish officer said the rebels had for the first time gained access to such weaponry from Iran, Syria, Armenia, Greece and Cyprus. (Reuters)

## Frozen asset

Paris: Claudine Cormille is keeping in her freezer a chunk of ice that fell from the sky and smashed through her suburban roof. She is hoping to trace its owner through an analysis of the ice and sue for repairs. Her home is under the busy flightpath to Roissy airport. (Reuters)

## Water cools tempers in Singapore war of words with Malaysia

Bangkok: Goh Chok Tong, the Prime Minister of Singapore, called yesterday for reconciliation in an escalating row with Malaysia. He is concerned that insults being traded between the two countries could end with Malaysia pulling the plug on the island's water supply (Andrew Drummond writes).

While Chinese-dominated Singapore views itself as richer and

superior to its mainly Malay neighbour, insults have been flying in Malaysia's direction. But what the island republic failed to take into account was that what Malaysia has and Singapore does not is the source of life. This week, panicked politicians called for urgent studies to find alternative water resources, indicating the seriousness of the rift.

The trading of insults began early

this year when Lee Kuan Yew, the former Prime Minister of Singapore, described in an affidavit Johor Bahru, capital of Malaysia's southern Johor state, as a place of "muggings, shootings and car jockeys". Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, the Prime Minister, retorted that Singapore was a place where police were needed to stop people urinating in lifts.

The barrage of insults continued in the *New Straits Times* of Malaysia and the *Straits Times* of Singapore. At the end of last month Thailand was dragged into the row when a cartoon in the *New Straits Times* showed Mr Lee handing out condoms to Singaporean travellers going on holiday to Thailand and Indonesia. Singaporeans have a reputation for being the region's sex tourists. Thailand was offended because the cartoon implied that the country was a AIDS risk. The Singapore media retaliated by declaring that it would be tantamount to treason for anyone to go on holiday to Malaysia.

The Thai Foreign Ministry yesterday called the dispute unfortunate and hoped the two would end the "unbecoming squabble".

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July 1st 1997



# Hussein admits costly mistake over Six Day War



King Hussein: "In reality, it was probably our duty to try to prevent this country from being part of that battle"

By CHRISTOPHER WALKER  
MIDDLE EAST  
CORRESPONDENT

KING HUSSEIN of Jordan confessed to his countrymen, in a candid speech to mark the thirtieth anniversary of the Six Day War, that he considers his decision to fight alongside other Arab nations was a costly mistake.

When war broke out on June 5, 1967, the Sandhurst-trained monarch rejected the offer from Levi Eshkol, the Israeli Prime Minister, that no action would be taken against Jordan if it stayed out of the conflict. Instead, the King told the United Nations mediator: "They started the battle. Well, they are receiving our reply by air."

In remarks published yesterday showing the honesty that has become the hallmark of his diplomacy, the King, 61, said: "In reality, it was probably our duty to try to prevent this country from being part of that battle."

In the past, the King has alluded to the war as a mistake, but has never been so frank about his own lack of judgment. His thirtieth anniversary speech was aimed at rallying flagging support among Jordanians for his efforts to build peace with Israel. Jordan signed a peace treaty with the Jewish state in 1994, the only Arab country besides Egypt to do so. Syria, Lebanon, Iraq and Saudi Ara-



Israeli troops celebrate victory at al-Aqsa mosque, the heart of captured Arab east Jerusalem, in 1967

bia also fought Israel in the war.

In his 30-minute address, the Jordanian leader rebuked Muslim fundamentalists and nationalists opposed to the 1994 accord, recalling that a tide of Arab nationalism inspired him to enter the 1967 war despite attempts by America and others to persuade him to stay out.

The King blamed Jordan's humiliating defeat on a lack of co-operation among the Arab armies. In the speech broadcast by Jordan radio, he

dismissed Arab mobilisation for the war as "merely propaganda, radio speeches, talk... that was not based on any reality or real preparation".

In a separate analysis published yesterday by *The Jerusalem Post*, the columnist Amotz Asa-El noted: "As late as the morning of June 5, 1967, Prime Minister Levi Eshkol tried, through American mediation, to dissuade Hussein from joining the war. Had Hussein heeded that advice, there might have been no West Bank settlements today." Dur-

Jordan was overwhelmed by 200,000 Palestinian refugees, the second wave since the 1948 Middle East War. That swelled the desert kingdom's refugee population to 850,000.

More than 6,000 soldiers were reported killed or missing, and many Jordanian tanks and fighter aircraft were destroyed by the Israeli Air Force.

In his speech, the King — who is facing mounting domestic criticism of the 1994 treaty with Israel — reiterated his commitment to helping the Palestinians to regain their territorial and political rights, but emphasised that his country would not become a substitute for a Palestinian state.

## White 'Nubian' joins race for benefits

By TUNKU VARADARAJAN

AN EGYPTIAN immigrant, descended from Nubians, has sued the US Government for classifying him as white.

Mostafa Hefny, 46, a naturalised American citizen, wishes to be reclassified as black. Bewildered by the working of the country's rules on race, Mr Hefny has declared that he is "much blacker than General Colin Powell". He also insists that his hair is "a black man's hair" and that his features are "a black man's features".

Mr Hefny is particularly aggrieved by his "whiteness" because it denies him access to a range of grants, loans, benefits and advantages available only to Americans from minority groups.

## Alabama Klan man executed

Washington: A Ku-Klux-Klan member was executed yesterday in Alabama for the murder of a black teenager, the first white man to be put to death in the state for killing a black since 1913 (Bronwen Maddox writes).

Henry Francis Hays, 42, was executed after telling his brother he loved him and refusing a last meal. He was convicted of the lynching in 1981 of Michael Donald, 19.

James "Tiger" Knowles, who took part in the murder, was jailed for life. They had driven around poor neighbourhoods of Mobile looking for someone black to kill.

## Migrants 'spell doom for Republicans'

Tunku Varadarajan reports from New York on a prediction that it will be almost impossible for a Republican President to be elected after 2008

immigration debates. Reviled by liberals, he was pilloried as a racist after the publication of his book, *Alien Nation*, in which he lamented "the browning of America" and called unchecked immigration a "demographic problem of seismic proportions which is snuffing out the American nation like a candle in a gale".

Mr Brimelow and Mr Rubenstein now blame the 1965 Immigration Act for threatening to consign the Republicans to oblivion. The Act abolished quotas by national origin and gave

poor, unskilled Third World immigrants the same shot at the American Dream as educated Europeans. As a result of that continuing influx, the party's share of the vote in presidential elections is predicted to slide inexorably. It could dip below 50 per cent in 2008 and fall as low as 45.3 per cent by 2032. The authors say that the Republican high-water mark — 53 per cent of the vote when George Bush beat Michael Dukakis in 1988 — can never be repeated.

White Americans have always favoured the Republicans, but as the proportion of non-white voters rises, the numerical advantages of having the white vote recede. New waves of immigrants, say the authors, will inevitably turn their backs on a Republican party which favours less welfare, less "affirmative action" and lower taxes. The Democrats, tasting blood, are likely to pander furiously to the newcomers' concerns.

These new waves of immigrants will also cancel out any rightward shifts among immigrants who come to be assimilated.

The article makes an appeal to the Republican Party to "rethink" its position on immigration, treating the question as a matter of simple political survival. "The trend is not our friend," they say. "Why take the risk?"



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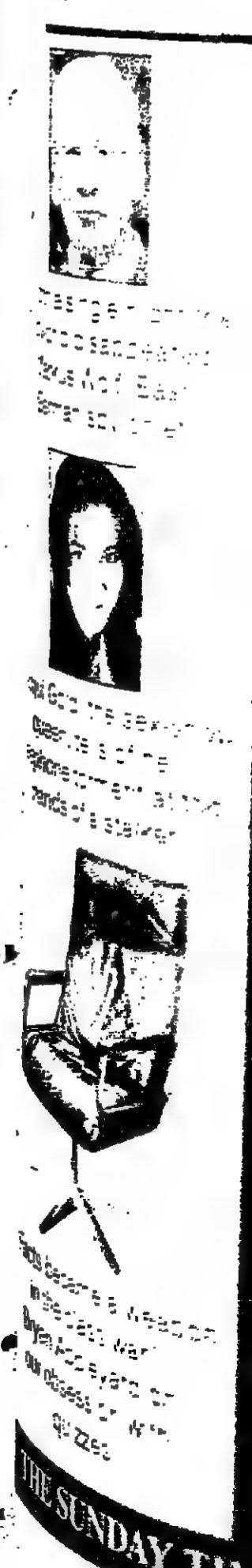
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Jospin's deputy goes native

SPECIAL excitement is in the air as Lille celebrates its annual fete this weekend.

Decked with flowers, the old capital of French Flanders is reopening its renowned Fine Arts Museum after a six-year renovation. It is also playing host today to President Chirac for his first appearance since his party's rout by Lionel Jospin and the Socialists in last Sunday's general election.

Wags in the cafés around Lille's cobbled Grand'Place think the humiliated Gaullist may extend his sulk inside the Elysée Palace rather than keep his long-standing appointment on hostile territory. The city is not only France's most enduring Socialist bastion: it is also the adopted home of Martine Aubry, the woman whose campaigning did much to ensure the victory of M Jospin and who is now his Deputy Prime Minister.

During the campaign Mme Aubry, 46, French "diva of the opinion polls", could be seen on television dissecting the antics of M Chirac's Gaullists. Mme Aubry has been a heavyweight in her own right since serving as a minister

### LILLE FILE

by CHARLES BREMNER

under President Mitterrand, but as she gets older her earnest mien and caustic style recall more than ever those qualities in her father, Jacques Delors, former European Commission President.

A woman with a Joan of Arc passion for social justice and her eyes on the long-term goal of the presidency, Mme Aubry now heads a superministry for employment and social security. She is known to have

### Station's escalating woes

THE high-tech Lille Europe station, designed by Jean Nouvel in the airy glass-and-aluminium style beloved of French architects, is not greatly admired. In winter, the wind whistles through, bringing snow into the main concourse.

This week citizens found out why it took so long for them to reach the platforms. The management had been swindled by an escalator company which supplied only two moving staircases, while taking payment for 12.

hoped for the Finance Ministry, but her post puts her in the front line of M Jospin's promised battle to create jobs through higher wages while staying on course for monetary union. "France does not need the monetary straitjacket any more. It is time to start spending and get the economy going," she says.

Much admired, but not loved, Mme Aubry has finally earned her political spurs by



Martine Aubry, whose earnest mien and caustic style recall the qualities of her father, Jacques Delors, former President of the European Commission

### Big ideas from city 'elephant'

NAMING his ministers, M Jospin kept out the older generation known as "les éléphants du socialisme". The biggest elephant is M Mauroy, 69, who has occupied the Lille mayor's office for 24 years, three of them while also serving as Mitterrand's first Prime Minister in the early 1980s.

"He's my political godfather," says the former Mme Delors, who speaks with an affection widespread in Lille for the city boss. Devoted to the old-fashioned socialism of the north, M Mauroy is the power behind a renaissance that has turned Lille from an industrial graveyard into a model of urban renewal.

His big break was when he persuaded Margaret Thatcher, in the early 1980s, to back the Channel Tunnel, a scheme which he saw could turn the town into "a great European crossroads" only a couple of hours from London, Paris and Brussels. It largely worked. A stroll through the bustling old centre offers a glimpse of prosperous France.

However, his schemes are sometimes a bit too grand. He is still smirking from the failure in March to win a place for Lille on the shortlist for the venue of the 2004 Olympics.

### Spanish protesters halt French traffic

FROM REUTER IN MADRID

HUNDREDS of Spanish lorries and drivers blocked the French border yesterday to protest against attacks by their French counterparts on their vehicles and produce, union officials said.

The protesters blocked the main crossing at La Jonquera, stopping vehicles from passing the highway toll.

Last night Jacques Rummelhardt, a French Foreign Ministry spokesman, condemned violence perpetrated by his country's farmers and called for a police report on the incidents.

The Spanish farmers' union insisted the protest would remain peaceful and was aimed at drawing the attention of the new French Government to the aggressive behaviour of French lorry drivers and farmers towards their Spanish neighbours. "We have suffered extreme

### World Cup footballs 'from Chinese jails'

FROM AGENCIE FRANCE-PRESSE IN SHANGHAI

FOOTBALLS for next year's World Cup finals in France are being made in Chinese prison camps, a freed political dissident said yesterday.

Bao Ge, jailed for conducting a sit-in protest in 1994 in Shanghai, said after his release on Tuesday that he had been forced to make footballs for 15 hours a day and was paid 20 yuan (£1.47) a month.

Mr Bao was held at the Dafeng prison camp in the eastern province of Jiangsu.

"At first we made colour bulbs, but we were not paid.

Since the end of 1995 we made footballs and received wages. The light bulbs were for export. The footballs were for the World Cup tournament in France next year," he said.

Mr Bao, whose job was to wax the balls, said they were inscribed with the words "France 1998 FIFA World Cup". He said that "minders",

whose job was to monitor his activities, identified the company producing and selling the balls as the Shanghai Zhigui Lianhe Co. in Shanghai's southeastern Nanhu region.

An official in the company's sales department confirmed that they were making footballs for export to France — some for souvenirs and others for use in the competition. The official said that the footballs were made in Jiangsu "by hired rural workers", but she denied that prison labour was involved.

So far, the company has exported 30,000 balls to France through the Shanghai Lansheng Export Import Co. An export company representative was unable to confirm if the balls would actually be used in World Cup matches, although he said they were of competition standard.

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"Within a single night the old world disappeared"

Markus Wolf, East German spy chief



Jacqui Gold, the sex-shop queen, tells of her telephone torment at the hands of a stalker



"Facts became a weapon in the class war"  
Bryan Appleyard on our obsession with quizzes

### MELINDA MESSENGER BARES HER SOUL



The latest Page 3 babe tells how her mother has disowned her and leering men are getting her down

THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS



## THEATRE 1

Within this wooden O, or something similar: an all-male *Henry V* goes on stage at the Globe



## THEATRE 2

... while a new Joshua Sobol play comes to the London International Festival of Theatre



## JAZZ

The Salisbury Festival revives Mike Westbrook's atmospheric settings of William Blake



## ON MONDAY

Has Kitaj got a point? Melvyn Bragg speaks up for artists who answer the critics back

THEATRE: Groundlings do their best to lift a low-key Henry; lightweight home truths



Mark Rylance, oddly muted as the king in a production of *Henry V* that failed to make the best of the most appropriate setting it has encountered in nearly 400 years

## Summon up the bloodless

I cannot remember how many times the Chorus in *Henry V* has invited me to imagine that the helms that affighted the air at Agincourt are crammed into a wooden O and that a cockpit is holding the vasty fields of France. What I do know is that the cockpit has usually been a Barbican or Royal Shakespeare Theatre, and the circle or cylinder a rectangle or cube.

How marvellous, then, to be at the Globe and see for myself that what Mark Rylance's Henry, doubling as the Chorus, called an O, a cockpit and an "unworthy scaffold" were identical to the ones audiences would have encountered 400 years ago.

But that is, of course, only the start. If our imaginations are to play their part, they need a little more help than even Shakespeare's verbal scene-painting can provide. There were times yesterday when I wondered if Richard Olivier, the director, could not give the Bard greater backup in what is, or ought to be, a thrilling updating of the David and Goliath story.

Partly the problem is that Olivier cannot call on as many

players as Shakespeare's company could presumably muster, with the result that a small English army looks like a slightly expanded version of the Famous Five. Even so, the alarms sounded muffled, the scaling ladders mentioned in the stage directions did not appear, the smoke of war was a cigarette puff, the offstage

yells were few and unmarital, and the soldierly seemed unflustered and unenergetic. Perhaps this would not vastly matter if there were tension and excitement off the battlefield; but there could be more of both.

Rylance is a fine actor, but

### Henry V Globe

### K'Far (The Village) Lyric, Hammersmith

PLAYWRIGHTS regard their childhood through rose-tinted spectacles. Grief and cruelty are in evidence but rather as a portion of sharp-tasting fish is present in a canapé, where the golden glow of aspic surrounds all. A golden glow can be pleasant enough, and the vicissitudes of childhood have their interest, especially if occurring in a place that has changed mightily and a time that has totally vanished. But after a while one longs for more substantial content or, in this case, less sweetness in the treatment.

Internationally known for *Ghetto*, Joshua Sobol has written this present play for the *Gesher (Bridge)* Theatre of Tel Aviv. Yevgeny Arye's company has a cast of 20, an impressive set, plenty of music, and is part of the Lift '97 season.

Israel was still called Palestine when Sobol was a child, as it is for his spokesman Yossi, described in the pro-

logue as "an eternal youth" and in the dialogue as "a dumbo". This means that he is sweet-natured, grins a lot and his limbs gangle. Nor does death seem to him quite what it does to other people.

His favourite goat and the family turkey continue to chitter to him, although one has choked to death on a silk stocking and the other gone into the oven. The deaths of human beings do grieve him, though perhaps it is the odd short-lasting grief that occurs in a dream, much as the events he recalls float into bright, hallucinogenic existence for a few moments and then fade into darkness. Beginning when the outcome of the battle of El Alamein is still in doubt, and

French prisoners killed, but is still a legitimate reading. What is lacking, though, is much sense of strain and inner turmoil. Only when Rylance falls to his knees before Agincourt and vows to make greater reparations for his father's regicide do we feel the desperation of Henry's moral and political gamble.

The cast is all male, as it would have been in 1599. There is a lot of doubling, too, although this does enable John McEnery to add a splendidly fizzy, ferret-like Pistol to his grave Archbishop of Canterbury and harridan Governor of Harfleur.

Bill Stewart and Ben Walden make some impression as his lowlife companions, but David Fielder needs to work harder on that wonderful study of dogged Welsh chauvinism. Fluellen.

Still, the audience entered into such spirit as there was. When Matthew Scurfield's Exeter, who also did a stint as Chorus, shook his head in horror at conspiracy, it hissed and boozed its agreement. It also made its dislike of French swans and sympathy with English Euro-bashing very clear. Even the girls crowded beside the stage did their best to look like greyhounds standing in the slips when Rylance leaned forward and invited them to join him in the breach. It would have been nice if everyone onstage had broken sweat, too.

JEREMY KINGSTON

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

Olivier cannot call on as many

years since the orchestra gave the first performance of *Sunflower*, Ian Volkov secured an organised and well coloured revival of a still demanding score.

If the Sinfonia and its Young Conductor in Association seemed less convincing in two movements of *Le Tombeau de Couperin* it was not their fault. When Ravel decided to orchestrate only four of the six movements of the piano original of that work, he had very good reasons. The Fugue is an essentially monochrome conception and, if it has to be orchestrated, it should surely be reserved for strings alone, without bizarre illumination by the wind instruments in Michael Round's arrangement. His version of the Toccata is more rewarding, but without the percussive articulation natural to the piano and alien to the orchestra it is just not the same piece.

GERALD LARNER

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ATURDAY JUNE 7 1997  
ON MONDAY  
Has Kitaj got  
a point? Melvyn  
Bragg speaks  
up for artists  
who answer the  
critics back

abolitical  
dialogue

JAZZ  
Mike Westbrook  
Saxophone Festival

THE TIMES SATURDAY JUNE 7 1997

21



■ OPINION  
They made an  
opera about  
Nixon; now can  
we watch a  
few singing  
British politicians?



■ POP  
Hot sounds in  
the West End:  
the Pet Shop  
Boys open a  
season at the  
Savoy Theatre

## THE TIMES ARTS



■ GOING OUT  
From Sir Georg  
Solti, conducting  
Verdi's *Simon  
Boccanegra* at  
the Royal  
Opera House ...



■ GOING OUT  
... to Suzanne  
Vega at the Fleadl:  
the top weekend  
events are  
listed today in  
The Directory

Today I feel a ping of psychic energy coursing through my limp old limbs. Yes, June has barely busted out all over, yet already I sense what will be deemed the Must Controversial Opera of 1997. Premiered in Philadelphia, John Duffy's *Black Water* is the story of a rich and ambitious American senator who crashes a car off a bridge and into a river, drowning an adoring young female passenger. You don't exactly need to be Gore Vidal to work out who might be who in this cheery caution of American public affairs.

Actually this particular opera is based on a Joyce Carol Oates novel. But its composer is far from being the first to explore the "if CNN covers it, we'll sing it" method of writing an opera. Indeed, the "docu-opera" has become a speciality of American composers in recent years. The very fashionable John Adams, for instance, has already produced operas about Nixon's visit to China, the *Achille Lauro* hijacking

and the Los Angeles earthquake — though, looking up my review of the latter, I see that it also claimed to explore "racism, economic deprivation, harsh immigration policies, a draconian legal system and media manipulation". Gosh, you don't get agendas like that in *Adul*.

Here in Britain we seem to be lagging behind in the docu-opera department. True, Glyndebourne once staged a bizarre British opera called *The Electrification of the Soviet Union* (nice pylons, shame about the tunes). And back in the Seventies dear old Sir Michael Tippett wrote an opera called *The Ice Break* about the Cold War — though I seem to recall that a race riot also came into it somewhere.

But no British composer has yet put on the stage the great mythic figures of our own recent history: Thatcher, Scargill, Diana,

Botham, Baby Spice. Wake up, Sir Harrison Birtwistle! You don't have to go back to ancient Greek legends for subject matter. There are enough plots, vendettas and buck-stabbing reported each day in *The Times* for a thousand scorchingly contemporary operas ... and that's just the Church Appointments column.

And perhaps if we had some really pertinent new operas to watch we would be spared all those tediously contrived "relevant" updatings of *Tosca* that consume large amounts of taxpayers' money and drowning critical attention each week.

Meanwhile, is Britain's concert life dying? Judging from the ludicrous doom-mongering of some newspapers it is already cold in the grave.

IN THE ARTS  
RICHARD MORRISON

But consider what's happening in London on a single evening (June 17) this month. Sir Simon Rattle is conducting Schubert and Mozart at the Queen Elizabeth Hall. The

guru of authenticity, John Eliot Gardiner, steers the LSO through Berlioz and Stravinsky in the Barbican. And one of the world's great basses, Samuel Ramey, is pounding out a programme of thrumming operatic arias in the Festival Hall.

The terrific Russian soprano Elena Prokofieva is in recital at the Wigmore. Ute Lemper, that long-legged lovely of the high-flying cabaret circuit, is doing a show at the Almeida. And the RPO's gloriously young Italian conductor, Daniele Gatti, will be dazzling the Albert Hall's audience. If all that constitutes the death throes of classical music, lead me to the funeral parlour.

Two thoughts pre-empt their way through my dense grey matter. First, to my American friends who are always trumpeting the musical

superiorities of New York, I say: show me a night like that in your town. And second, wouldn't it be fun if the promoters of all these concerts each sent me their audited box-office receipts? Then we could see which maestro or diva really does have the biggest pulling-power. Over to you, chaps. But don't hold your breath, readers.

Finally, another contestant for our Great Latency Performance Art Competition. And this week we are delighted to welcome a foreign entry. The ensemble Huotajat ("The Screaming Men") consists of 30 fellers from the town of Oulu in northern Finland, who line up in black suits, white shirts and black rubber ties ... and scream. Nothing else. No fits, no fancy footwork, no gerbil-juggling. Just screaming. But it's

all said to be done with an "emphatically disciplined expression" that "verges on the primal". What do they scream? Well, mostly "workers songs, national anthems and quotations from Finnish laws", apparently. But that's not important. And anyway, it's in Finnish, which is a jolly difficult language to understand at the best of times — and I don't think that being screamed at by 30 men in rubber ties is likely to rank as the best of times. Nevertheless, we are promised "an intense sonic explosion" that comes from the edge, from the very periphery of Europe. I, for one, am strangely excited by the thought.

Anyway, they are screaming their first and only British performance tomorrow evening (7pm) at St Augustine's Church, Haggerston Park, London E2. Regular worshippers turning up for Evensong may be in for a shock. On the other hand, they may think it's just another trendy new type of Church of England service.

POP: Stephen Dalton sees the Pet Shop Boys take up a West End residency



The Pet Shop Boys, Neil Tennant (foreground) and Chris Lowe, with Sylvia Mason-Jones onstage at the Savoy

# Still-life in a disco

might just counter the disappointing sales of their most recent album, *Bilingual*.

Tennant and Lowe have always straddled the boundary between showbusiness and conceptual art. Despite frequent protestations to the contrary, they are clearly much more than mere entertainers. The collision of Lowe's dynamic disco arrangements with Tennant's earthy, pithy lyrics may have produced many of the best singles of the

past decade, but they can also seem maddeningly aloof and hobbled by critical theory.

Hence their Savoy residency, a glitz extravaganza on the surface but a far stranger beast beneath. Conceived by the artist Sam Taylor-Wood, the stage design owed more to galleria installations than to West End musicals. Flanked on either side by giant video walls running real-life footage of revellers charting and dancing, Tennant and Lowe appeared to move between stage and screen at carefully synchronised intervals.

Although these attempts to expand orthodox notions of pop presentation are laudable, this intimate theatrical setting did not necessarily enhance the duo's somewhat rigid performance style. Tennant often seemed wooden and uncomfortable, while Lowe's pulsating soundscapes deserved more decibels. This was particularly true of such one-time show-stoppers as *Yesterday*

*When I Was Mad or Can You Forgive Her*, whose restless energy clearly demanded less sedate surroundings. However, the softer and warmer contours of the duo's more recent, Latin-flavoured singles *Se a Vida É* and *Before* adapted more comfortably to the Savoy's understated elegance.

The show's latter half seemed to give Tennant a second wind, his ready voice becoming a lusty roar for the crashing melodrama of *The Theatre*. He then dueted with backing vocalist Sylvia Mason-Jones on a wity medley of *It's a Sin* and the disco classic *I Will Survive*. At this point the crowd could contain itself no longer and rose en masse for Boys' new single, an irreverent and highly charged disco remake of *Somewhere* from *West Side Story*.

For the encore, Tennant strapped on an acoustic guitar for a robust solo reading of *Rent*. Then Lowe's keyboard exploded back into life for *Left to My Own Devices*, with its definitive Pet Shop Boys lyric: "Che Guevara and Debussy to a disco beat". But that was written seven years ago. In 1997, Liberace and Damien Hirst to a disco beat would be nearer the mark. Nowadays, the Pet Shop boys are unsure whether they would rather be Gilbert and George or Gilbert and Sullivan.

*The Goodbye Girl*  
A new musical

"TENDEZZO" is a bit of a bore out in London. O.K. Mag Book by Neil Simon. Music by Marvin Hamlisch. Lyrics by Don Black. Even Mon-Fri 8pm Wed 7.30pm. Sat 7.30pm. Sun 7.30pm.

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We no longer mutilate pictures to make space, yet a great Cambridge museum can still have its façade ruined, says John Adamson

There is a saying in Texas: "Bigger may not necessarily be better — but it's more." It is an aphorism which might well serve as the mission statement of our national art museums. From the National Gallery down, there is hardly a major gallery in England without its gleaming new extension, or which does not have plans afoot for further expansion.

So far, where there has been controversy, it has been about architecture: witness the recent fracas over the V&A's proposal for a new wing designed to resemble a pile of half-squashed cardboard boxes. But one question has slipped through not just unanswered, but unasked. Is all this expansionism invariably a Good Thing?

The latest set of proposals from the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge, now before the Royal Fine Art Commission and English Heritage, raise this question as a matter for national concern. Having already notched up six extensions since the 1920s, the Fitzwilliam's Syndics (or trustees) are promoting a radical scheme for a further extension — at an estimated cost

of more than £10 million.

One must, of course, be sympathetic. Given that almost every gallery is continuing to acquire works, while being opposed to "de-accessioning" (museumspeak for selling things) lest this frighten off future donors, the implication is clear: our museums will go on accumulating, and getting ever larger, it seems, indefinitely. They thus face alternatives: either an ever higher proportion of their collections will go into storage; or more space must be found to display the collections and to house the curatorial staff. Museums are immune from any consideration of the "optimum size". Big is not only beautiful: it is inevitable.

But at what cost to the fabric of our museum buildings, many of which are works of art in themselves? Here, the threatened consequences are far from benign — as the Fitzwilliam case demonstrates.

What sets the Fitzwilliam Museum apart, even before one gets to its collections, is that it inhabits one of the great architectural monuments of the 19th century. Designed in 1834 by George Basevi (1794-1845), the pupil and protégé of Sir John Soane, it is a great, free-standing temple to the arts, approached through a massive Corinthian portico. It is the major public building which Soane himself never had the opportunity to build, and it has long been recognised as one of the finest buildings of its date anywhere. What happens to it is thus a matter of national concern.

— So far, so good. The Basevi Building's status has preserved it from the piecemeal "extensionism" which has blighted so many of our historic museums. Not that the Fitzwilliam has stood still: it has expanded steadily. But, early this century, the fore-sighted University Fathers, conscious that they were

custodians of "a building which is counted amongst the most successful architectural achievements of the 19th century", bought a large site to the south (twice the size of the site occupied by the Basevi Building) to accommodate future expansion. All subsequent additions have been built there, where their visual impact on Basevi's temple has been kept to a minimum.

Not so the proposed building. The Syndics want to cut a hole through one of the facades. A bulky, three-storey wing will jut out to the right of the building (as viewed from the street), rising almost to the full height of the original museum. Something approaching a third of Basevi's north facade will be demolished, and a large part of the garden at the side will also be lost.

Of course, the Syndics can make a plausible case for another extension: the requirement for more

gallery space, offices, conservation workshops, facilities for disabled visitors, and lavatories. But all of the proposed amenities could be accommodated on the museum's southern site, where there remains space for substantial development. Demolishing part of Basevi's façade would, at best, provide only a short-term solution to the museum's needs: the damage to the building would be permanent.

What may seem at first like another spartan among

dons, actually raises much larger issues. Indeed, what is astonishing about the proposal to demolish a third of the Fitzwilliam's façade is that it should ever have been seriously contemplated. It highlights how arbitrarily the guardians of our heritage choose to privilege one form of "art" over another, and how the decisions about which bits of

our "heritage" are deemed worthy of protection are affected by the whims of fashion.

Compare an earlier solution to the problems of space: in the last century it was acceptable in certain quarters to log several feet off an over-large canvas — a Rubens or Van Dyck, say — and to reframe the picture to fit the space. Today, there is scarcely a museum which does not possess at least one major painting which has been cut down to solve a "problem of space". Such solutions may seem little short of barbarous. Yet nowadays, when it is a building which happens to be the masterpiece for the chop, our museums' scruples are far less sensitively honed. "Cutting down" Grade I listed facades can be proposed (albeit with a certain amount of hand-wringing) by the very same people who would be appalled by such a proposal if it were a painting — and

The author is a fellow of Peterhouse, Cambridge.

## What know they of cricket?

Arlott and Johnnies have gone, but Test Match Special goes on forever — I hope

Cricket on television is for wimps. Real men use radio. Radio is the Word. In the beginning was willow and leather, but soon afterwards came the Word. Forty years old this weekend, *Test Match Special* is still loud and clear. Again today, addicts will bury themselves in its incomparable banter. And how marvelous that its anniversary should coincide with a high point in the English game.

I am not a cricket enthusiast, but rather a *Test Match Special* enthusiast. Cricket is enjoyable to play but unexciting to follow. It is an intimate contest between bowler and batsman, its skill that of split-second reaction to a turning ball, which few spectators can possibly detect. Individual talent is bought in the open market, and the modern county championship offers little tribal commitment. The one-day game is almost baseball.

But Test matches are different, indeed a sport apart. They are athletic fields of the cloth of gold, tournaments of medieval majesty, assuming unlimited leisure and almost unlimited sunshine. Enacted over five days, their ups and downs, nuances and climaxes extend over work and play, lunchtime, tea and the journey home. Since few are lucky enough to have 40 continuous daylight hours to watch them on television, portable radio has a monopoly. Its ball-by-ball commentary is a speaking scoreboard, elevated to an art form.

Test match reporting was begun by Howard Marshall in the 1930s. Ball-by-ball commentary started with Rex Alston in 1957. Its greatest exponent was the gruff John Arlott, from 1967 to 1990. Arlott took routine Test matches and transformed them into pictorial sagas of the summer season. While cricket's metronome ticked away in the background, he seemed unconcerned with winning or losing. His cricketers were not personalities, but strolling players who moved their masquerade from Edgbaston to Trent Bridge, Old Trafford to Headingley, Lord's to the Oval.

Arlott's vignettes were celebrated. As if Masood bowled "like Groucho Marx chasing a pretty waitress". His page-long account of a Trueman delivery is a cricket masterpiece. But his painterly brush seemed to prefer the green of grass and tree, the grey of pigeon and seagull, the white of flannel against a dusty pitch. He loved to describe the murmur of the crowd, the ripple of applause, the roll call of his settings, the Mound Stand, Kirkstall Lane, Ratcliffe Road, Nursery End. Arlott was a landscapist, a Constable of cricket.

Beside him sat the garrulous Hogarth, Brian Johnston. If Arlott was the provincial codger, Johnston was the plummy club bore. Arlott learnt in the school of life, his Hampshire burr laden with village wisdom. Johnston never left prep school. "Johnnies" lived in a boy's own whirl of nicknames, tuckshops, club ties and slabs of Madeira cake. Arlott rose from the Hampshire constabulary where, as a modest poet, he was spotted by John Betjeman and recommended for a BBC job. Johnston was a middle-brow toff.

This pair not only forged my understanding of cricket. They comprised it. I once sat out a session with them in their box at the Oval. Arlott gazed out of the window throughout. He saw only clouds, birds and the intermittent drama of the Square. His was a poet's love for



The *Test Match Special* team at the 1980 Lord's Centenary Test. John Arlott's last Test match. From left: Brian Johnston, Christopher Martin-Jenkins (standing), Tony Lewis, Trevor Bailey, Bill Frindall, John Arlott and Fred Trueman

a vanished pastoral England. Johnston was hyperactive, rising through readers' letters, chatting, dropping names incorrigibly. He once gabbled out: "My friends at the Palace tell me the Duke of Edinburgh much enjoyed our commentary yesterday."

The talents of these two utterly different men were complementary. They were Morecambe and Wise, Flanders and Swann. Their double act was a stroke of BBC genius. Johnston continued until he dropped in 1994. When Arlott retired in 1990, the players gathered beneath his eyrie at Lord's and saluted him. A desperately private man, he was overwhelmed. He died in 1992.

The act was irreplaceable. Christopher Martin-Jenkins, Jonathan Agnew and Henry Blofeld (Johnston's CMB) Aggers and Blowers are no less professional, possibly more so, but inevitably lack the magic. It is as if Arlott had been put out to grass. Johnnies rusticated for some prank, and a group of prefects decided to do the job themselves.

Yet the formula survives intact, as does the supporting cast. Fred Trueman is still there, deplored a changing world and wishing that Cork and Gough "be sent back to the changing room to wipe that muck off their faces". Bill Frindall, "the bearded wonder", still keeps score, as he has been doing since 1966. "The highest third-wicket partnership against Australia since 1936," he drones, facts alone being excitement enough. Trevor Bailey adds his staccato comments, though without Johnston's guying as "the boil". Asked to comment

on a poor leg-before-wicket decision yesterday, he said merely: "Very adjacent."

*Test Match Special* is the last refuge of "gentlemen versus players" in English sport, of upmarket amateur and downmarket expert. The dominant accents are mostly those of gentleman journalists. Non-posh or regional voices are from players such as Trueman, who have risen from the crease to the box, or from visiting team commentators. These are welcomed like prime ministers to a Commonwealth conference. The politeness of the hosts is renowned. When the visiting team does well, "I'm afraid your chaps are making us look pretty silly." When England does well, as at present, it is all gentle sympathy. There is none of the screaming, drooling chauvinism of the new BBC soccer commentary.

*Test Match Special* testifies to the power of radio reporting. The voices are normal, not shouting, conveying information unscripted but grammatically and without interruption. There is no being clever, scoring points, heckling or forced jokiness. Other programmes find this discipline impossible. BBC News encourages reporters to pepper their words with sound-effects: "cow" must be accompanied by the sound of mooing, "car" by a revving engine, "leadership" contest by a boxing bell. The medium is dumbing down fast. Small wonder *Test Match Special* is frequently said to be at risk.

The programme's relaxed character is conditioned by the speed of the game. Watching a sporting contest is about suspense.

sustainable only as long as the contest lasts. Hence the lunacies required of athletics commentators, who must pad out the few seconds of race with hours of trivia. In a Test match, something is always happening, but never very much. It is more a canal-boat ride than a horse race. A Peter O'Sullivan-style commentary must be slowed to a hundredth its normal speed.

Yet *Test Match Special* was and is more than a commentary. Radio is inherently blind. Its images are a private contract between speaker and listener. Cricket may be dull, its outcome often easy to predict. Yet the reporter cannot waffle for his audience is expert. He must fill out the game with description and information. Yet he must create in the listening mind's eye a picture of grandstand, spectators, pavilion, field, players and suspense. This is a ceremony with acolytes the world over. They need more than the score.

Arlott and Johnston answered that need. They were two Englishmen of a peculiar stamp. Arlott was proud never to have used the first person singular in writing or broadcasting. As a good journalist of the old school, he deferred to the story. As a poet, he knew he had on his palette the greatness of the English language and needed nothing else. He dabbed words onto canvas in honour of the sport that he loved.

Sometimes the cricket seemed to disappear. The game faded, whether through lunch or rain or because it did not matter much. As Arlott said: "What does he of cricket know who only cricket knows?" We sat back and shared what Johnston called "just a couple of friends enjoying a day out at the cricket". The joy lingers. After 40 years, may it never cease.

Richard Addis, the Editor, who explained that he had become a luxury which they could not afford, akin to a Ferrari sitting outside a mining village.

Table talk  
ANOTHER couple of disillusioned Tories who have turned to publishing



"I can't possibly miss any of the Test!"

## Delivery date

HARRIET HARMAN's decision to appoint Anna Coote, the 50-year-old deputy director of the Institute of Public Policy Research, as her special adviser on women's issues, will come as no surprise in midwifery circles.

Harman is said by Westminster sources to have been Coote's "birthright partner", which presumably

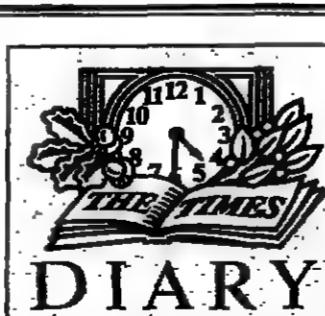
means that she attended to and comforted her during the birth of her daughter who is now 11 years old.

The two have certainly known each other for many years. She wrote a book with Harman and the Labour MP Patricia Hewitt, called *The Family Way*, and Harman is just the sort of caring feminist who would espouse the notion of a birthing partner.

However, inquiries on the subject to Harman's office at the Department of Social Security, and to Anna's in Whitehall went unheeded yesterday.

Coote, 50, is charming but can strike fear into a chauvinist breast. She was the woman who fought to allow ladies a chance to drink at El Vino's, the Fleet Street wine bar, and had little regard for those old-timers who were unsettled by her intervention.

Could Marjorie Mowlam have been a victim of Peter Mandelson's high-handed intervention over in



Northern Ireland? I understand that she was hoping to appoint Baroness Brenda Dean, the former SOGAT president, as her spokesman in the province. Brenda wouldn't do, she was told, and has been given Lord "Alf" Dubs, the trade union dinosaur, instead.

### Dead wrong

OBITUARIES are a sensitive area of any newspaper, particularly at The Daily Telegraph at the moment, which recently confused the late Greek shipping magnate George P. Livanos with his livelier and more glamorous cousin George S. Livanos. The obituary

made for an interesting read, containing nuggets from the lives of both the Livanos boys. It was an easy mistake to make, and the paper carried a prominent apology and correction the next day. This was fortunate, for on the very day that The Daily Telegraph killed off George S. the man was in coking form and dining with its proprietor Conrad Black.

### Paid up

ONE OF LIFE'S great trenched men will soon have to tighten his belt. Roy Hattersley is giving up his extraordinarily lucrative television column in The Express newspaper at the end of next month.

In the accountancy department, they are celebrating. Hattersley is said to have arrived at the paper demanding £800 per column, and his annual income from The Express was at one point notching £200,000.

Lord Hollick, the Blairite Chief Executive of the paper's owner, United News & Media, had to be scraped off the ceiling when he discovered what the hat was salting away. A letter was dispatched from

Richard Addis, the Editor, who explained that he had become a luxury which they could not afford, akin to a Ferrari sitting outside a mining village.

Table talk  
ANOTHER couple of disillusioned Tories who have turned to publishing

### Duffed up

NEVER has there been such despair at the Royal Opera House. For the first time, staff have sent a petition to the Heritage Secretary, Chris Smith, complaining about the chaos that has followed the departure of Genista McIntosh after only four months as chief executive. Rumours that the ROH is currently paying three chief executives are wide of the mark. But Jeremy Isaacs, the general director who departed months ago, is still on the pay roll, for his contract runs until September. Genista McIntosh apparently got a handsome pay-off for an early departure, and the chairman Lord Chaddington is being paid as an acting chief executive while Covent Garden awaits



Stevens and Duffield, director of the Royal Opera House

the arrival of his replacement Mary Allen from the Arts Council. Meanwhile, Vivien Duffield, the formidable partner of English Heritage chairman Jocelyn Stevens, and a director of the ROH, is said to be calling the shots. Certainly, there was little lost love between Duffield and McIntosh who claimed to have resigned as a result of stress.

P.H.S.



## SMITH IN CAMELOT

The Heritage Secretary has had a lucky escape

Of all the possible candidates for this newspaper's sympathy, Camelot, the lottery operator, comes near the bottom of the list. We have consistently argued that the lottery should have been given to a not-for-profit organisation — and that Camelot itself has failed to respond to the public disquiet about the retained interest on unclaimed prizes. Camelot's accounts lack transparency. Its relations with its regulator have been too close for comfort. The bonuses that the directors of this national monopoly awarded themselves were excessive, insensitive and potentially damaging to the lottery itself.

Chris Smith's actions in the past week have, however, caused a minor earthquake here, a small surge of sympathy and support for Camelot. The National Heritage Secretary has bullied and blustered, humiliated and threatened the company's directors, in order to try to persuade them to donate their bonuses to charity. Offers and counter-offers have been exchanged and rejected. Resignations have been threatened and a confidential deal finally done. The directors will pay an undisclosed proportion of the bonuses to charity and the interest on unclaimed prize money will also go to good causes.

Mr Smith is a lucky man this weekend. It is one thing for a minister to be appalled by the size of lottery bonuses. So were most people. But a general sense of disquiet about Camelot is not a reason for a government to seek to stop 40 per cent pay rises. The chief executive, Tim Holley, probably does not deserve his salary of £50,000. But just deserts, and the public's sense of what directors should be paid, is not part of the mechanism by which pay in this instance is set. The company has stupidly damaged itself and its lottery by inept public relations. But if the Government wants a change it

should increase either its own powers or those of its regulator in the appropriate manner and time.

Mr Smith was perfectly entitled to deplore the bonuses in a speech. But instead he risked an unnecessary fight which only a figleaf of confidentiality prevents him from being seen to have lost. Two days ago, the directors were threatening resignation. They could easily have followed through with that threat, leaving Mr Smith open to responsibility for future lottery troubles. Or they could have refused to cave in to any of Mr Smith's demands, leaving the Secretary of State eating public humble pie.

Camelot knows that its operating contract will not be renewed. Why should its directors save the minister's face? Mr Smith has exposed himself as interventionist and anti-business in a Government that is supposed to be the opposite. He is lucky that his bruising is not too visible.

This incident is in one sense relatively trivial. But in another sense it shows the dangers of playing the politics of opposition in Government. To protest about "fat cats" paying themselves increases 20 times the rate of inflation would be the obvious response of an opposition frontbencher. The issue is nakedly populist, and it has the added advantage that the government minister concerned cannot do much to ameliorate the position.

But translating that straight into Government is not the act of a responsible politician. This administration is popular enough already; it does not need to indulge in headline-grabbing gestures. Mr Smith is an intelligent and cultured man, who should flourish at National Heritage. From now on, he should concentrate on doing his job well, not on winning votes.

## WARRIOR FOR PEACE

Barak will provide real competition for Netanyahu

The soldier-statesman is a familiar figure in Israel. The consistent threats to that nation's security make for such a combination. The present Prime Minister, Binyamin Netanyahu, is a former commando. His brother was the sole Israeli soldier killed in the audacious raid on Entebbe 21 years ago. But Likud and the other parties on the right of the Israeli political spectrum can survive without heroes in their hierarchy. Their credentials on military issues are sufficiently strong in any circumstance. The Labour Party is a different proposition. Public opinion may sympathise with its objectives but remains unconvinced of Labour's ability to guarantee national and personal security.

Labour's dilemma was personified in the respective political fates of Shimon Peres and Yitzhak Rabin. Among party activists, Mr Peres was and still remains a much loved figure. His evident passion for peace and reconciliation with former enemies won numerous plaudits abroad. But in his own country he was distrusted. On the five occasions he offered himself to the Israeli electorate, he failed each time to secure a stable Knesset majority.

Mr Rabin was a very different proposition. As an innately cautious former army chief of staff, he was accorded respect but, until his death, little real affection within the Labour Party. The wider electorate, though, supported him. In 1992, Mr Rabin won the outright victory that consistently eluded Mr Peres. Little more than a year later he reached agreement with Yassir Arafat and the PLO. Had he not been assassinated, he would probably still be Prime Minister.

In Ehud Barak, its new leader, the Labour

Party has opted for Mr Rabin's natural successor — and enhanced its electoral prospects. Mr Barak is another former army chief of staff, a brilliant soldier who once had Mr Netanyahu under his command. He reluctantly entered politics only two years ago largely at Mr Rabin's exhortation. He is not well known for his policies: but at the ballot box he has the potential to restore the authority of his party.

The next Israeli election is not due for another three years. But given Mr Netanyahu's difficulties, including the damage inflicted by the Bar-On scandal that nearly forced his resignation, the Prime Minister may be forced to the polls before that point. Mr Netanyahu should not be underestimated. He is a determined fighter and exceptionally gifted communicator. His policies are rather more popular with Israelis than with foreign politicians. The influx of immigrants from the former Soviet Union and North Africa is changing Israel's political demography in Likud's favour. But Mr Netanyahu will find Mr Barak a tougher proposition than Mr Peres.

Despite their rivalry, these two leaders agree on most of the core questions governing the peace process. That relative consensus will be a source of strength for Israel. The Palestinian leadership will know the limits of what it can demand. Although the extra concessions — in his words, "calculated risks" — that Mr Barak might offer are limited, they will convey real credibility. That in turn will put pressure on Mr Netanyahu. At the last election many Israelis felt that the choice was between sentiment and security. That need no longer be so.

## HIGHWAYMAN PRESCOTT

Transport policy should not be confined to transport alone

Millions of motorists crawling through clogged streets today for a trip to the countryside or a visit to friends and relations will agree with John Prescott that Britain is in danger of choking on traffic. They will applaud the Deputy Prime Minister's call for investment in public transport; people who leave their cars at home reduce pollution, help the environment — and leave the roads clear for them. They will have smiled this week at the pictures of Mr Prescott riding the London Tube to make a symbolic point. But on Monday, millions of these same people will drive themselves to work.

Because transport has long provoked more vexed complaint than any other area of policy, the department is generally considered small reward for ambitious politicians. To its credit, Labour is taking transport seriously. Not only has Mr Blair appointed his deputy to the post; but by combining transport with environment he has made a promising administrative reform.

A new Government can, occasionally, change behaviour simply by encouraging new ideas and new habits. Mr Prescott, as deputy head of the most popular administration for many years, clearly thinks so. Last month he urged motorists to leave their cars at home and try walking, cycling or taking the bus to work, school or shops. He is in tune with a growing belief that the car is the enemy of health, the countryside and Britain's urban heritage. But exhortation is no substitute for policy.

Labour has promised a White Paper, focused on ways to create an "integrated" public transport system. There is a touch of old thinking here. Integrating bus and train timetables is common sense. But to

centralise management of transport systems would run counter to the privatisation and devolution of control to local authorities that is making transport more efficient.

If, however, Mr Prescott is talking about integration within Whitehall, he is onto something far more important. A workable transport policy cannot confine itself to transport alone. It cannot be fenced off from decisions about the location of houses, shopping centres, business parks, schools or hospitals. The Conservatives recognised that planning has an environmental function; but Britain lags well behind the Continent's best practice in considering likely car use when giving consent to new development.

Money will be needed. Labour may agree to hypothecation — setting aside revenues from fuel and road licences to improve buses, build trams and encourage steps to help modes of transport other than the car. But the Government also recognises that money must come largely from the private sector — as it will, for example, if entrepreneurs see a profitable market in regular school bus services.

Planning decisions should be determined by local need, but Government can set the tone and adjust the fiscal framework. Privatised services need tough regulation. Labour should not shrink from financial incentives and disincentives. It is counterproductive, for example, to allow tax incentives for company cars but none for rail season tickets; only with heavier fuel taxes and a fresh look at road tolls and other measures will motorists decide that there are better ways for them personally, not just for other motorists, than to spend large parts of their lives sitting in traffic jams.

## Hopes and fears in battle for euro

From Professor Stephen Haseler

Sir, Your drumbeat of opposition to Chancellor Kohl and his historic European project for monetary union continues. Now you suggest that the result of the French election may throw the whole project into disarray (leading article, June 3).

In fact the opposite is the truth. Media comment on the result has tended to overlook the fact that the French Socialists are founders of EMU and, aside from Chancellor Kohl himself, are the most fervent federalists and integrationists in the whole of Europe.

What is more, Lionel Jospin's insistence on a more "political" euro, controlled by unemployment-sensitive politicians rather than monetarist bankers, will mean that the Eurosceptic nightmare of an "economic government" for Europe (already under serious discussion by Germany and France) becomes ever more real (report, June 4).

As the time for the introduction of the euro, particularly in a "softer" form, draws near, many of those who oppose the whole project are increasingly succumbing to wishful thinking. Illusions about the euro's demise have a long pedigree. First, the "hard euro" was going to do the euro in: then the German SPD, when it abandoned its support for a few months, was going to break the German consensus and undermine Kohl; then last year's French strikers and demonstrators would fatally undermine it; and now "public anger over Herr Kohl's Rhinegold follies" is shaking the political terrain, as the leader puts it.

By clutching at every straw British Eurosceptics (and Europhobes) look increasingly negative and bitter. And it is this whingeing aspect of the Eurosceptics which is leading them to lose the battle: for although there are many problems with the federalist model, it is both clear and positive.

Yours etc,  
STEPHEN HASELER  
(Member of Council, Federal Union),  
2 Thackeray House,  
Ainsdale Street, W8.  
June 4.

From Dr Martin Holmes

Sir, Anatole Kaletsky ("Euro-rascals pay the price of mendacity", June 3) is quite right to argue that tight money policies and high taxation are jeopardising the prospects for European monetary union by throttling economic growth and job creation.

The situation is worse than that. In the event of Stage III beginning on time in 1999, such policies would be even more entrenched. Contrary to EU claims that the current economic pain is merely transitional to the single-currency gain, the adoption of the euro would aggravate economic misery, for the following reasons:

1. The euro would be introduced through a new exchange-rate mechanism from which there would be no escape akin to "White Wednesday".
2. To overcome market disquiet over fudged convergence criteria the European Central Bank would need to impose an interest-rate premium.
3. The scarcely veiled objective to "rival" the dollar and the yen would exert upward pressure on interest rates.
4. Without a common language, as in the US, labour-market flexibility would be inhibited.
5. Without a flexible labour market, and in the absence of national exchange-rate adjustment, employment would take the strain.

Such an outcome would exacerbate the current dire under-performance of the EU economy compared to that in North America and Asia-Pacific. Far from solving Europe's competitiveness problems, a single currency would prolong them.

I remain, Sir, yours etc,  
MARTIN HOLMES  
(Co-Chairman, The Bruges Group),  
44 Park Town, Oxford.  
June 3.

## Scotch miss

From Mr C. J. Myerscough

Sir, The romantic photograph on today's back page purports to show a cask of whisky being rowed across from Skye to the island of Eigg — a distance of some 40 miles by sea from the distillery. Looking at the size of the cask in relation to the boat, and the lack of displacement of the stern, I suspect the cask is empty.

A long row with an empty barrel?

Yours,  
C. J. MYERSCOUGH,  
Halbush, Holden Lane,  
Bolton by Bowland, Lancashire.  
June 4.

## Philosopher's vote

From Professor Bryan Magee

Sir, I am getting startled queries from friends about Roger Scruton's review (May 29) of my book *Confessions of a Philosopher*, in which he says I am "in fact a Burkean Tory". I am not — and there is nothing in the book to suggest otherwise: quite the contrary.

In the recent general election, for example, I voted Liberal Democrat, and was delighted by the overall outcome.

Yours faithfully,  
BRYAN MAGEE,  
12 Falkland House,  
Marlborough, Wiltshire.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

## Single parents and 'welfare to work'

From Professor Lord Russell, FBA

Sir, In his speech on the Aylesbury estate in Southwark (report, June 3) Tony Blair said that "you only take out if you put in. That's the bargain". This is the old biblical precept. "He that will not labour, let him not eat".

As a moral for our personal lives this may be sound enough: as a legal rule it shows too little awareness of a multitude of individual circumstances from undiagnosed depression to sheer unfitness to do the work on offer.

Can no one teach Mr Blair that "the quality of mercy is not strained"?

Yours sincerely,  
RUSSELL  
(Liberal Democrat spokesman on social security),  
House of Lords.  
June 3.

From Mrs Kathryn Gynell

Sir, Tony Blair's speech would have been better directed at the tax and benefits system he inherited from the Tories — a system which has penalised low-income, one-breadwinner, married families while making the option of single parenthood by choice all too feasible. He might also have criticised the misplaced political correctness which continues to sanctify this option.

His "welfare to work" policy will be socially damaging and economically costly. The economics of scale required to make it work will mean underfunded, under-regulated and poor quality care. Its provisions will penalise children who are already deprived of one parent by reducing the contact, care and individual attention that the remaining parent can give.

Penalise mothers who believe that they are the best people to bring up and supervise their children by adding further to their anxiety and exhaustion.

## Taking sides on Tory leadership

From Mr Guy Wilkinson

Sir, Mr Phillip Oppenheim (letter, June 3) recognises that "people have strong views on Europe" but a new Conservative leader "must make his priority the issues which concern ordinary people — education, health, law and order and, above all, the economy".

Contrary to Mr Oppenheim's advice, it must be made crystal clear to "ordinary people" that the priority issue is Europe. If closet federalists such as Mr Kenneth Clarke have influence it will not matter whether we have a Labour or Conservative government; the ultimate decisions on how much we tax ourselves, spend on and manage education, health, law and order and the economy, will be made not at Westminster but by a Federal Europe.

Yours faithfully,  
GUY WILKINSON,  
White House Farm,  
East Grimstead, Salisbury, Wiltshire.  
June 5.

From Mr Andrew Havery

Sir, I have been mystified by the continuing rolling bandwagon of Mr Kenneth Clarke in the leadership contest (reports and leading article, June 6). Mr Clarke has many excellent qualities and has a great deal to contribute in this Parliament, but it is important that a balanced assessment of the contenders be made.

There is no point selecting a leader who will simply increase the Conservative's ratings in the opinion polls marginally and for perhaps the next year only. A leader is needed who will bring the party to sufficient popularity by the time of the next election to win convincingly.

Mr Clarke is the most popular Conservative contender but his popularity may be peaking. The other candidates are less popular, but less well known. Should Mr Redwood or Mr Lilley, for example, become leader they will have the opportunity to play roles on the national stage over the whole field of policy which will drastically change the way the public views them.

We must have a Conservative Party with policies developed by all wings of

## Long-standing date

From Mr Adrian Ramos

Sir, After more than 100 years the skeleton of Joseph John Merrick, "the Elephant Man", has been scanned in order to test whether his affliction was caused by a strain of neurofibromatosis (Preview, Television Choice, May 27).

To an NF sufferer like myself, who already waited six months for a similar scan from the NHS, this news is encouraging. I have cleared a space in my diary for the year 2007.

Yours faithfully,  
ADRIAN RAMOS  
The School House,  
Bromesberrow,  
Leedsbury, Herefordshire.  
May 28.

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## COURT CIRCULAR

## BUCKINGHAM PALACE

June 5: The Duke of York, Colonel-in-Chief, The Royal Irish Regiment, this afternoon received Colonel Ienac Clark, appointed as Deputy Colonel of the Regiment and Brigadier David Stratley upon assuming the appointment.

June 6: The Queen today visited Havering, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Essex, Sir Lindsay Bryson.

Her Majesty drove to the Old Town this morning and was received at Winkle Island by the Mayor of Hastings (Councillor Graeme White).

The Queen subsequently visited the Shipwreck Heritage Centre and was received by the Rt Hon Sir Glyn Orme, Leader of the National Museum Team, followed by the Fishermen's Museum, where Her Majesty was received by Mr Paul Joy (Chairman, Fishermen's Protection Society).

The Queen later opened Queen's Square in Priory Meadow Shopping Centre and was received by the Leader of Hastings Borough Council (Councillor Paul Brown) and the Chairman of Beavis company plc (Sir Michael Angus).

This afternoon Her Majesty visited Hastings College of Arts and Technology and was entertained to a concert performance of Kornogald's "Violins" at the Grand Theatre.

Mr James P. Parker, President of the Prince of Wales today visited North Yorkshire and was received by Mr Michael Abraham (Deputy Lieutenant).

His Royal Highness, Vice-President, the National Trust for Places of Historic Interest or Natural Beauty, this morning visited Studley Royal and Fountains Abbey.

The Prince of Wales this afternoon visited the Market Place, Ripon, and met members of the local community. His Royal Highness afterwards visited Ripon Cathedral and listened to a presentation by schoolchildren of the future of Ripon.

KENSINGTON PALACE

June 6: The Duke of Gloucester, Patron, ASH (Action on Smoking and Health), this morning received Mr Clive Bentham, chairman, the appointment of Director of ASH.

Professor John Matham (Chairman, ASH) and Mr David Simpson (Director International on Tobacco Health) were present.

## Royal engagements

## TODAY:

The Duke of York will visit HM Bark *Endeavour* at Shore Street Quay, Inverness Harbour at 10.50 and the Theatre Ship, *Fitzcarraldo*, at 11.15; will attend a luncheon given by the Provost of Inverness at the Town Hall, at 12.30; will open the Inverness Aquadrome, at 2.10; and will open the new offices of the WRVS, Kenneth Street, at 2.55.

The Duke of Kent, Colonel, Scots Guards, will take the salute at the Colonel's Review of the Queen's Birthday Parade on Horse Guards Parade at 11.00.

## Service luncheons

Central India Horse

The annual luncheons of the Central India Horse and their families was held yesterday at Claridge's Hotel and marked the 75th meeting since the founding of the Regimental Dinner Club. Brigadier C.T. Edward Collins presided.

Skinner's Horse

Colonel Alan Mallinson was the guest of honour at the annual luncheon of Skinner's Horse held yesterday at the Cavalry and Guards Club. Lieutenant-Colonel Douglas Gray presided.

19th King George V's Own Lancers

Former Officers of the 19th King George V's Own Lancers and their ladies held their annual luncheon yesterday at the St Ermin's Hotel, Captain Lord Weatherill presided.

## Salter's Company

The following have been elected officers of the Salter's Company for the ensuing year:

Master, Mr L.V. Stoff: Upper Warden, Lord Rockley; Second Warden, Dr the Hon A.H. Todd.

His Royal Highness, Patron, Outward Bound Trust, later chaired a meeting of Outward Bound International at the Army and Navy Club, Washington DC.

The Duke of Edinburgh this afternoon visited the British Library's exhibition "Let There Be Light" at the Queen's Hall, Washington DC.

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## Inquiry into strip search of woman prisoner

By RICHARD JONES  
THE TIMES CORRESPONDENT

THE TIMES SATURDAY JUNE 7 1997

## OBITUARIES

## FRED NUTBEAM

Frederick Nutbeam, MVO, former head gardener at Buckingham Palace, died on May 16 aged 83. He was born on March 18, 1914.

In 1953, Fred Nutbeam was one of 120 people to respond to a discreet newspaper advertisement for a post of head gardener in central London. He had not guessed that he was applying for one of the most distinguished gardening posts in the country, that of head gardener at Buckingham Palace, a position he held for almost a quarter of a century, until his retirement in 1978.

Frederick Charles Nutbeam went to school in Hythe, Hampshire, and started his gardening career as soon as he left school at the age of 13. He learnt his craft at large private houses in Hampshire and elsewhere, and also worked for a time at Walmer Castle in Kent.

He served in the Royal Navy during the Second World War, based at Portsmouth, and after the war went back to gardening. In 1947 he moved to Wales to be head gardener at St. Donat's Castle (now Atlantic College), on the Glamorgan coast.

He spent seven years there, before taking up his post at Buckingham Palace on January 1, 1954. At the Palace, he was responsible for maintaining to an exceptionally high standard a garden of more than 40 acres, with large plantings of trees and shrubs, and extensive lawns which are each year trampled on by tens of thousands of people attending garden parties and other events.

One of the most testing times for Nutbeam was during the drought of 1976, when the gardens, and particularly the lawns, were under great stress. Yet by skilful cultivation he managed to keep up appearances, despite the ban on garden watering, which applied even to the Palace.



He was highly regarded by the Royal Family, who take a great interest in the gardens. When the Queen's children were small, they were said occasionally to give the gardeners a hand (though usually when Fred was not around).

Two of his special loves at the Palace were the rose garden and the long herbaceous border, both of which he maintained to an extremely high standard. The herbaceous border, designed to be at its peak in summer for the garden parties, was a fine example of a form of gardening rarely seen today.

Nutbeam was also involved in planting out 15,000 or more bedding plants each May, and 20,000 bulbs in the autumn. In addition he bore the responsibility for the planting of a collection of silver-leaved plants, which Lord and Lady Astor, of Hever Castle, had presented to the Queen and Prince Philip as a silver wedding present in 1972.

Nutbeam was a disciplinarian of the old school, having been trained under strict head gardeners at a time when they were a force to be reckoned with. But he was also a cheerful person and much respected by his staff. Al-

though he lived in London he was a countryman at heart. He took delivery of the flamingos for the Palace lake in 1961, and thought them "a wonderful sight". He once commented: "The garden feels isolated and I often forget I am in London because of the quietness and the abundant wildlife. It is a birdwatcher's paradise."

He had his own kitchen garden at the Palace, and gave any surplus produce to the gardening staff. He also recorded the weather at the gardens.

In later years he was plagued by poor eyesight, but he carried on through his retirement judging local shows and giving talks and lectures to gardening societies and groups. He was at his best talking people, and loved showing groups around the Palace gardens.

In retirement, Nutbeam returned to the place he grew up, the village of Dibden Purlieu in the New Forest, Hampshire. He continued gardening in his own beautiful garden.

A new azalea has been named after him, "Fred Nutbeam", with exceptionally large, freely produced and brilliant orange-red flowers, is one of the Hyde evergreen azaleas raised by his close friend the late George Hyde, a nurseryman from Ferndown, Dorset, who specialised in and hybridised rhododendrons and azaleas. This azalea was launched last year after being presented in the Queen at the Chelsea Flower Show. It was hoped that Nutbeam would make the presentation, but he was not well enough to travel to Chelsea. A group of this azalea has been planted at Buckingham Palace to mark the Queen's 70th birthday.

In 1977, the year before his retirement, Nutbeam was appointed a Member of the Royal Victorian Order. He is survived by his wife Gertrude Frances, whom he married in 1937, and by their two daughters and son.

As founder and director of the Flag Institute, he was Britain's foremost authority, and was consulted by publishers, librarians, newspapers, television and film-makers. His international standing was recently acknowledged by his election as president of the International Federation of Vexillological Associations.

William George Crampton was educated at Wallasey Grammer School and — after National Service in 1954-56, which took him to the Suez Canal zone — at the London School of Economics, where he read sociology. He had a period teaching at Gravesend Technical College and in Ghana; before in 1963 he became an adult education organiser for the West Lancashire and Cheshire Workers' Educational Association.

From boyhood he had

soured bookshops and libraries for information about flags, and now he began to correspond with other experts, including Whitney Smith, the American expert who was regarded as the father of the international vexillological

community. At a meeting held in London by Smith in 1967, Crampton met many other flag-lovers, including Captain Edward Barracough, then editor of the standard British reference book, *Flags of the World*.

This meeting gave a boost to Crampton's activities. He soon became the most active member of the flag section of the Heraldry Society, editing its newsletter, which later became *Flagmaster*. In 1971, he and Barracough launched the Flag Institute, which maintains and distributes up-to-date information about national flags and emblems throughout the world. In the same year, at the fourth international Congress of Vexillology, in Turin, the institute was accepted as a member of the International Federation. Two years later, it was to host the fifth congress in London.

In the meantime, Crampton had produced numerous booklets — including a survey of British Army flags which resulted in an inquisitorial visit from Special Branch. In due course he became co-editor and then editor of *Flags of the World* and the popular *Observer Book of Flags*. With energy best described as unflagging, he achieved a near monopoly as editor of such titles, with *Eye-witness Guide to Flags*, *The Spotter's Guide to Flags*, *The Complete Guide to Flags*, *The World of Flags* and *Flags of the World*. He was also an adviser to *The Statesman's Yearbook*, the Navy, the Commonwealth Institute and the BBC, and helped to prepare flag charts for schools.

In 1985, at the 11th of the biennial international congresses, Crampton was awarded a diploma by the Soviet Flag Society, and in 1991 he was given the International Association's "Vexilum", for excellence in the promotion of vexillology. Two years later he was elected president of the International Federation, an office he held until his death.

Crampton was called upon by film-makers, and advised on historically authentic flags for *The Mission* (1986), *Tai-Pan* (1986) and *The Madness of King George* (1994). He was also invited to create a number of new flags, including that for the Channel Island of Herm.

In 1995, he gained a PhD from Manchester University, after ten years' work on his thesis "Flags as Non-Verbal Symbols in the Management of National Identity" — which was largely based on a study of flags in Germany over the past century or so as a reflection of the turbulent political situation.

Crampton was also a leader in the campaign to have the Union Jack formally proclaimed the national flag as it approaches the bicentenary of its incorporation of the Irish Cross of St Patrick in 1801.

The growth of the Flag Institute, and the volume of business with flag manufacturers, led in 1995 to the formation of a company, Flag Institute Enterprises, of which Crampton was managing director.

William Crampton is survived by a son and daughter, his marriage having been dissolved.

## WILLIAM CRAMPTON



William Crampton, vexillologist, died on June 4 aged 61. He was born on May 5, 1936.

ASKED when he first became interested in flags, William Crampton replied that this was like asking when he first started breathing. He began his research as a schoolboy, when he realised that some of the flags in his atlas were out of date, and his love of the subject led to the foundation of the Flag Institute and to a presence on the Internet.

As founder and director of the Flag Institute, he was Britain's foremost authority, and was consulted by publishers, librarians, newspapers, television and film-makers. His international standing was recently acknowledged by his election as president of the International Federation of Vexillological Associations.

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## MARIAN COATE



Marion Coate, MBE, Secretary of the Franco-British Society, 1946-77, died on June 3 aged 91. She was born on May 3, 1906.

THROUGH her long reign as its chief official, Marion Coate made the Franco-British Society a lively and popular organisation, fostering and improving the understanding between the two countries. She brought to the task of running the society outstanding intelligence, energy and charm.

These qualities were very much on display at moments such as President de Gaulle's state visit to Britain in 1960, or at the time that Robert Schuman (the originator of the Schuman Plan, leading to the creation of the Iron and Steel Community) came to London in 1969. Both behind the scenes and through her own inimitable *jolie de vivre*, Marion Coate did much to ensure that a happy atmosphere pervaded the social occasions that go along with such visits.

Born to English parents in Switzerland, Marion Mabel Coate possessed an unusual gift for languages and was a polyglot from an early age. After taking a degree in modern languages and history at Lausanne University, she

taught French and Italian to English students abroad until the threat of war persuaded her to put her talents to more urgent use.

Leaving Switzerland — whose neutrality in the coming struggle she accurately foresaw — she came to London and took a job with the Air Ministry, where she was soon made personal assistant to Air Chief Marshal Sir Philip Joubert de la Ferte, the Assistant Chief of Air Staff. So highly did he think of her that, when he moved to take charge of Coastal Command, he did not hesitate to invite her to go with him. Later in the war she put her linguistic ability to further

use while working with the code-breakers at Bletchley Park. She ended her war service on the staff of Lord Louis Mountbatten at South-East Asia Command in Colombo, where she served as liaison officer to the newly arrived French mission.

This proved a splendid background for her appointment as the first postwar secretary of the Franco-British Society in 1946. She threw herself into her work — lecturing in both French and English to all the society's branches throughout England and Wales and spearheading organised tours of art at first war-ravaged France.

Later she was the moving spirit behind the British-French colloquies, which became annual events, often attracting high-powered figures from both countries. She was appointed MBE in 1967, and had been made a chevalier of the Legion d'Honneur in 1960. In 1976 she won the Whitbread Award for the promotion of British-French co-operation. She continued with her lecturing long after retirement, finding that she had more time for the part of the job she liked best when she was spared from paperwork.

Marion Coate never married and is survived by a brother and sister.

## JEFF BUCKLEY



ten minutes or more. Employing a mixture of folk, funk, grunge and jazz, *Grace* won Buckley the *Rolling Stone* Best New Artist Award in 1995.

On May 29, while working on the follow-up album in Memphis, Tennessee, Buckley and a friend went to a marina on the Mississippi to relax. Buckley, fully clothed, waded into the river singing, and was swept away by the wake of a passing boat. His body was found a week later.

Jeff Buckley never knew his father — Tim was a lothario with a drug-habit that kept him restless. Although Tim released eight critically-acclaimed albums, his sales were always disappointing. Jeff's mother — Tim's mother — left Jeff to bring up his younger brother on his own.

Although he dedicated the song *Dream Brother* to Buckley senior, Buckley frequently disparaged his absent father — claiming he inherited his musical talent from his

mother. At one of his London concerts in 1995, a member of the audience kept shouting out Tim Buckley's name — Jeff responded by miming the inhalation of heroin and falling to the ground in convulsions, before "dying" by the drum-riser. Tim died of an overdose in 1975. He was 28.

As a result of such an unconventional upbringing, Jeff Buckley turned to music at an early age. He was a regular on the New York folk scene, playing to crowded bars in rough-and-ready half-hour slots. One of his trademarks was to begin singing soft and low, gradually raising the volume and pitch until the audience became totally silent and entranced.

His first, limited-edition live album, *Live at the Sin-e*, was released on the independent label Big Cat in 1994. Such was its critical success that Sony Records signed him up

for his first proper release, the *Grace* album, within months. Buckley was disapproving of his status and burgeoning "legend" — and often bemused by record companies waiting on him hand and foot. One of his favourite jokes was "How many Jeff Buckleys does it take to change a lightbulb?" "Oh, it's okay, Jeff, we'll do it for you, we know a guy in Brooklyn who's wonderful at changing lightbulbs. He'll do it for a couple of points [royalties] on your album."

Although the *Rolling Stone* award raised his profile in the US, it was in Britain and Ireland that Buckley's career was based. His audience was diverse — from fortysomethings checking out Tim Buckley's son, to more avant-garde teenage girls, impressed by his cheekbones and haunted eyes. John McEnroe and Chrissie Hynde were regulars at his concerts — Hynde and McEnroe once spending an evening jamming with him after a particularly triumphant London appearance.

Songs such as *Last Goodbye* — a shivering blend of folk-blues and Buckley's scatting, ululating voice; and the dolorous, harmonium-led *Lover, You Should Have Come Over* — had marked Buckley out as a new Van Morrison, someone with limitless talent and range.

His last British appearance, at the 1995 Glastonbury Festival, was a chance to premiere new material, post-*Grace*. Songs such as the astonishing *What Will You Say When You See My Face* — built around Eastern chord-structures and endless, despairing blues arpeggios — confirmed that Buckley was on an artistic roll that might have resulted in dozens of treasured albums.

Michael Long, 15, of Cheshunt, Hertfordshire, who died on the 6th February 1997, perished in a fire at his home in Cheshunt. Marion Coate died on the 10th October 1997, in Cheshunt. The Willows, Cheshunt, Hertfordshire, was sold on 7th March 1998. Marion Coate was born on 17th August 1906, died on 3rd June 1997 and is buried in Cheshunt Cemetery, Cheshunt, Hertfordshire.

EDWARD RAMON BOYD, 80, died on 27 February 1997, having been given a full military funeral at Cheshunt Cemetery, Cheshunt, Hertfordshire, on 2nd March 1997. He was born in Cheshunt on 27th August 1916, the son of Edward and Mary (nee Doherty) Boyd, of Cheshunt. He was a member of the Royal Engineers and served in the Second World War, ending his career as a signals officer in the Royal Signals. He died in Cheshunt on 27th February 1997, having been given a full military funeral at Cheshunt Cemetery, Cheshunt, Hertfordshire, on 2nd March 1997. He was born in Cheshunt on 27th August 1916, the son of Edward and Mary (nee Doherty) Boyd, of Cheshunt. He was a member of the Royal Engineers and served in the Second World War, ending his career as a signals officer in the Royal Signals. He died in Cheshunt on 27th February 1997, having been given a full military funeral at Cheshunt Cemetery, Cheshunt, Hertfordshire, on 2nd March 1997. He was born in Cheshunt on 27th August 1916, the son of Edward and Mary (nee Doherty) Boyd, of Cheshunt. He was a member of the Royal Engineers and served in the Second World War, ending his career as a signals officer in the Royal Signals. He died in Cheshunt on 27th February 1997, having been given a full military funeral at Cheshunt Cemetery, Cheshunt, Hertfordshire, on 2nd March 1997. He was born in Cheshunt on 27th August 1916, the son of Edward and Mary (nee Doherty) Boyd, of Cheshunt. He was a member of the Royal Engineers and served in the Second World War, ending his career as a signals officer in the Royal Signals. He died in Cheshunt on 27th February 1997, having been given a full military funeral at Cheshunt Cemetery, Cheshunt, Hertfordshire, on 2nd March 1997. He was born in Cheshunt on 27th August 1916, the son of Edward and Mary (nee Doherty) Boyd, of Cheshunt. He was a member of the Royal Engineers and served in the Second World War, ending his career as a signals officer in the Royal Signals. He died in Cheshunt on 27th February 1997, having been given a full military funeral at Cheshunt Cemetery, Cheshunt, Hertfordshire, on 2nd March 1997. He was born in Cheshunt on 27th August 1916, the son of Edward and Mary (nee Doherty) Boyd, of Cheshunt. He was a member of the Royal Engineers and served in the Second World War, ending his career as a signals officer in the Royal Signals. He died in Cheshunt on 27th February 1997, having been given a full military funeral at Cheshunt Cemetery, Cheshunt, Hertfordshire, on 2nd March 1997. He was born in Cheshunt on 27th August 1916, the son of Edward and Mary (nee Doherty) Boyd, of Cheshunt. He was a member of the Royal Engineers and served in the Second World War, ending his career as a signals officer in the Royal Signals. He died in Cheshunt on 27th February 1997, having been given a full military funeral at Cheshunt Cemetery, Cheshunt, Hertfordshire, on 2nd March 1997. He was born in Cheshunt on 27th August 1916, the son of Edward and Mary (nee Doherty) Boyd, of Cheshunt. He was a member of the Royal Engineers and served in the Second World War, ending his career as a signals officer in the Royal Signals. He died in Cheshunt on 27th February 1997, having been given a full military funeral at Cheshunt Cemetery, Cheshunt, Hertfordshire, on 2nd March 1997. He was born in Cheshunt on 27th August 1916, the son of Edward and Mary (nee Doherty) Boyd

## NEWS

**Blair tells Kohl: borders must stay**

■ Tony Blair told Helmut Kohl that he could not sign up to a new treaty on Europe's future in Amsterdam in ten days' time unless Britain's border controls remained legally intact. Displaying growing confidence on the European stage, Mr Blair promised in Bonn to try to set the EU agenda. Page 1

**Britain rides a sporting wave**

■ Britons wake up this morning to a rare red letter day of sport, with so much glory confronting them that they may have to pinch themselves to be sure it is not all a distant dream. The start will be at Edgbaston where, weather permitting, a miraculously revived England cricket XI will finish their first-mnings demolition of the Australians. Page 1

**Higher mortgages**

The newly independent Bank of England seized its first opportunity to raise interest rates leaving homeowners facing higher mortgage costs. Page 1

**Doctor questioned**

A consultant obstetrician was being questioned after his wife was found beaten to death on the patio at their home. Page 1

**Directors' donation**

The row over Camelot "fat cat" pay was resolved when senior directors agreed to donate part of their bonuses to charity. Page 2

**Making ends meet**

Britain's highest-paid director is a former carpet fitter who has changed roles to cut his cloth as a City trader. Page 3

**PC thrown from car**

Detectives are hunting a man who stole a policeman's car after throwing him from the bonnet as he tried to stop suspects. Page 6

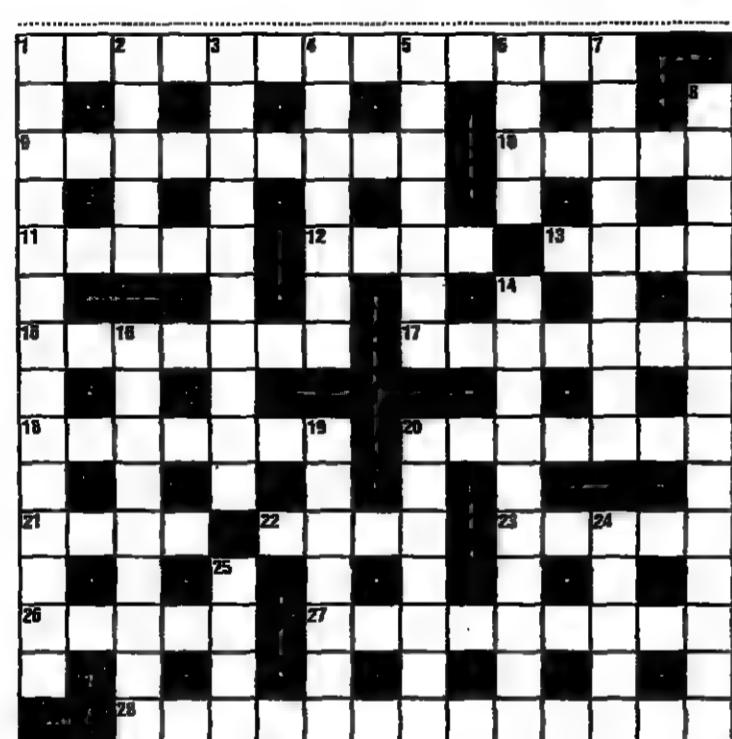
**Too much messing about in boats**

■ One of the most charming images of Cambridge — punting along the Backs — is becoming one of the city's biggest headaches. An increase in the number of tourists is leading to gridlock on the Cam and a level of rowdiness that is disturbing colleges who have called for tighter policing. Page 1

**THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,500**

A £20 book token will be awarded to the senders of the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The names of the winners and the solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address

**ACROSS**

- 1 Connection between banks and games (7,6).
- 9 Discovering uranium missing, narrowly averted disaster (4,5).
- 10 Entertain Clio, for example (5).
- 11 Anxious respect, securing approval (5).
- 12 Skip over much in the leaders (4).
- 13 Sound of animal's cry (4).
- 15 Impose one's will with barking of foreign state police (7).
- 17 Inscription in stove-pipe hat (7).
- 18 It can make me a lord (7).
- 20 Saw quoted, placed in speech (7).
- 21 Stroke used in ruse (4).
- 22 Song with a recurrent melody (4).
- 23 Two firms are providing drinks (5).
- 24 Dirt in 'Arry's 'ome (5).
- 27 I am turning out to be instructional (9).
- 28 Efficient? Save one's bacon only if it is (5,4,4).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,494

Solution to Puzzle No 20,499

**BODICE ASSESSES**  
R I A T T H U  
A R T I C H O K E T R A I N  
N H A M E R P B  
D A Y R O O M P L A T E A U  
Y R I V N  
M A S S I P R O D U C T I O N  
A M A O O E N T  
C A B I N E T P U D D I N G  
I D G E E  
D E A D P A N H U N D R E D  
H B I L L N O T I  
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O I F R O R O R  
D R E S S E S N O O N D A Y

**LAST WEEK'S WINNERS:** J Mortimer, Cold Ash, Berkshire; J R L Clark, Wimborne, Dorset; M Wray, Newmarket, Suffolk; T Blakemore, Aldridge, Walsall; A Birmingham, Birmingham.

## NATURE NOTES

**Co-habitation**

When space on the lily-pads is limited, these continental amphibians must attempt a suitable *modus vivendi*.

**Chiraca presidenta**

*Jospinus primus*

*Peter Brookes T W 97*

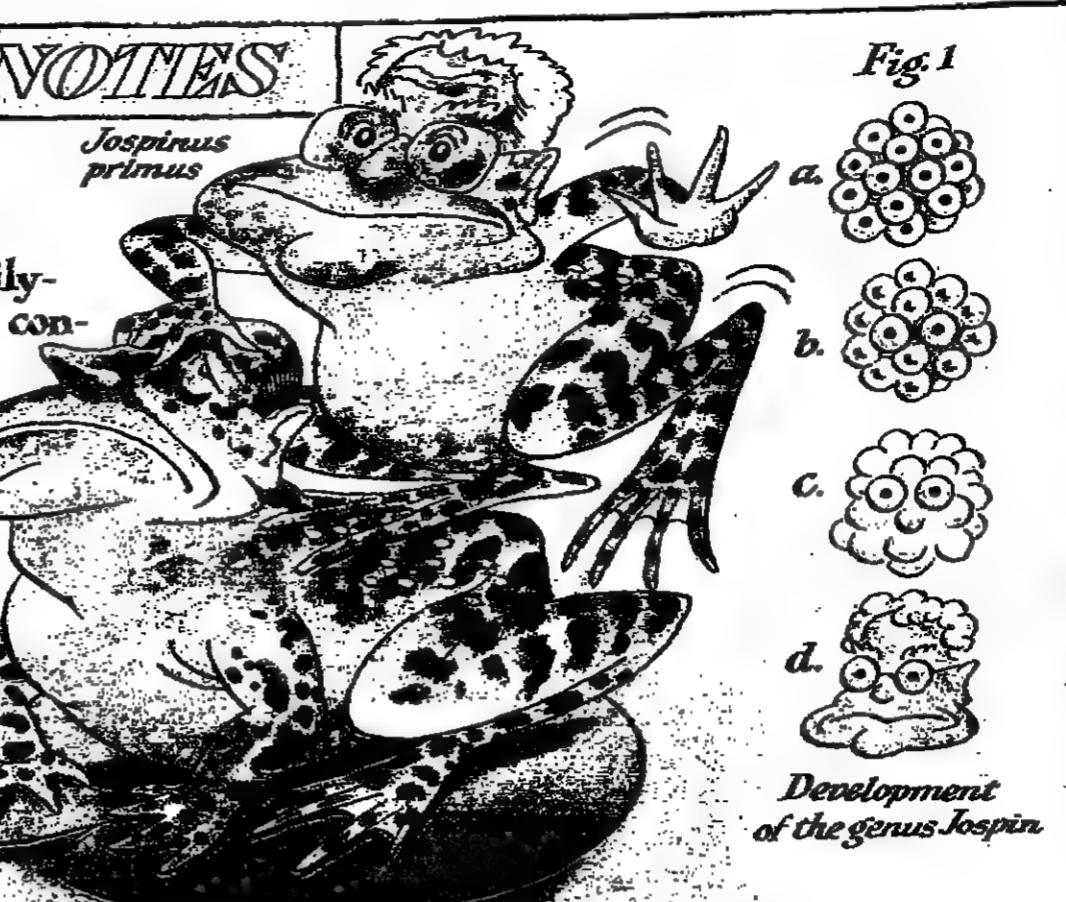
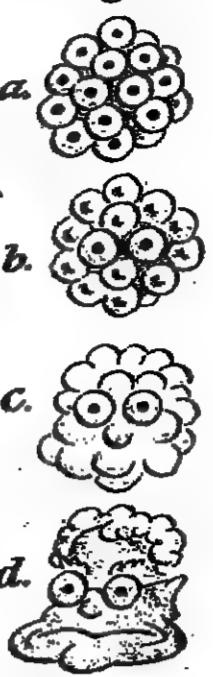


Fig. 1



Development of the genus *Jospinus*

## SECTIONS

## MAGAZINE

Great cricket: The world's top 100 players ..... Page 17  
Driving seats: At the head of the bus queue ..... Page 18  
Ciaran Hindu ..... Page 27

## Weekend

Gap year: How to see the world ..... Pages 1,2



Fashion: Go for the hot Madras ..... Page 3  
June gardening: Pages 4-6  
Country life ..... Pages 11-13

## 10 15

Pool dudes: What to wear this summer ..... Page 6  
Win: easy jeans ..... Page 3  
Teen queen ..... Page 10

## directors



Easy laughing: Pages 4,5  
What's on: The critics' choice ..... Page 15  
Television & radio: Seven-day guide ..... Page 23

## OPINION

Smith in Camelot: A general sense of disquiet about Camelot is not a reason for a minister to seek to stop 40 per cent pay rises. Mr Smith has exposed himself as interventionist and anti-business in a Government that is supposed to be the opposite ..... Page 23

Peace warrior: In Ehud Barak the Israeli Labour Party has opted for Mr Rabin's natural successor ..... Page 22

**LETTERS**  
EMU: welfare; Tory leadership; dreams; Valentine's Day fare increases ..... Page 23

## COLUMNS

Simon Jenkins: John Arlott and Brian Johnston were complementary. They were Morecambe and Wise, Flaners and Swann ..... Page 22

John Adamson: What is astonishing about the proposal to demolish a third of the Fitzwilliam museum's facade is that it should ever have been contemplated ..... Page 22

## OBITUARIES

Fred Nutbeam, head gardener at Buckingham Palace; Jeff Buckley, singer-songwriter; William Crampton, vexillologist ..... Page 25

## BUSINESS

Cable & Wireless: The biggest uncertainty was removed when the company announced the sale of a stake in Hongkong Telecom, to a mainland Chinese phone company ..... Page 52

John Adamson: What is astonishing about the proposal to demolish a third of the Fitzwilliam museum's facade is that it should ever have been contemplated ..... Page 22

Tesco: One of the City's leading fund managers took the unusual step of paying tribute to Lord MacLaurin of Knebworth as he said farewell to shareholders. Page 27

Markets: The FT-SE 100 rose 68.3 to 4645.0. Sterling fell to 99.6 after falling from \$1.6306 to \$1.6275 and DM2.8195 to DM2.8143 ..... Page 30

## SPORT

Cricket: Hussain scored 207 and Thorpe 138 as England reached 449 for six, a lead of 331, in the first Test ..... Page 52

Racing: Entrepreneur is odds-on favourite for the Derby. Rears Of Verse won the Oaks ..... Page 44,52

Tennis: Gustavo Kuerten will meet Sergi Bruguera, twice a winner of the tournament, in the final of the French Open ..... Page 50

Rugby union: Matches in next season's five nations' championship will be played for the first time on a Sunday ..... Page 52

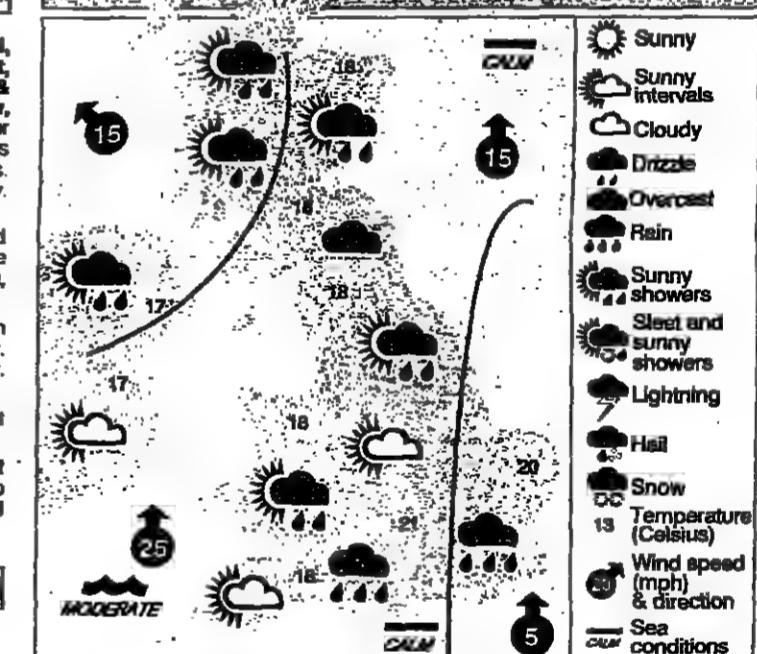
## ARTS

This wooden O: Second production of the inaugural Globe season. Henry V, with Mark Rylance at centre stage ..... Page 20

Feeble: Joshua Sobol's new play, *The Village*, comes to London with a sweet but simplistic view of childhood ..... Page 20

Sing all about it: "No British composer has yet put on the stage the great mythic figures of our own history: Thatcher, Scargill, Diana, Botham, Baby Spice," says Richard Morrison ..... Page 21

## NOON TODAY



## TORONTO OR NEW YORK

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## HOURS OF DARKNESS

TODAY  
Sun rises 6.15 am  
4.45 am  
Moon sets 9.14 pm  
11.46 pm

First quarter June 13

London 9.14 pm to 4.45 am

Bristol 9.24 pm to 4.55 am

Edinburgh 9.24 pm to 4.29 am

Manchester 9.25 pm to 4.27 am

Penzance 9.29 pm to 5.13 am

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; d=drizzle storm; du=du=drizzle; lg=lg=long; g=gale; h=half

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Automobile Association Development Co Ltd

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**HIGH TIDES**

TODAY PM HT PM HT

London Bridge 0.05 1.17 1.17 2.11

Abelton 0.18 1.45 1.45 2.10

Portsmouth 0.21 1.55 1.55 2.13

Southend 0.24 1.60 1.60 2.16

Southampton 0.27 1.63 1.63 2.19

Weymouth 0.31 1.67 1.67 2.23

24 hrs to midday local time on Thursday X = not available

APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
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# THE TIMES



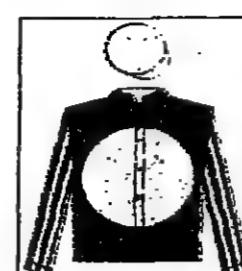
INSIDE  
SECTION  
**2**  
TODAY

Monday  
Tuesday  
Wednesday  
Thursday  
Friday

**WORKING WEEK**  
Big problem, small  
problem — call  
the liquidator  
**PAGE 29**



**INVESTMENT**  
Jason Nissé on  
a little Sugar  
in your bowl  
**PAGE 31**



**SPORT**  
Follow your fancy  
in our full colours  
guide to the Derby  
**PAGES 45-52**

**THE TIMES**  
**CITY**  
**DIARY**  
**PAGE**  
**29**

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

SATURDAY JUNE 7 1997

## C&W sells £726m stake in Hongkong Telecom

BY ERIC REGULY

**CABLE AND WIRELESS** has reached agreement with China over the future of Hongkong Telecom, selling a 5.5 per cent stake in the company for £726 million as a first step in reducing its controlling position.

Shares in C&W rose 15 per cent to a new high of 57p on news of the deal, struck just three weeks before the colony's handover. Shares of Hongkong Telecom, which was 59 per cent owned by C&W, hit record highs on Friday on speculation that an announcement was imminent.

C&W sold the Hongkong Telecom stake to China Telecom, the phone company controlled by Beijing's Minis-

try of Posts and Telecommunications, for HK\$14.25 a share, or a total of HK\$9.2 billion.

Shares of Hongkong Telecom had climbed to more than HK\$19 before the announcement, giving the appearance that C&W sold the stake at a discount to the market price.

C&W denied selling the shares cheaply, noting that the transaction price was equal to the average price of the shares over the past 90 days.

The deal leaves C&W in control of Hongkong Telecom in the short term. But it also sets the framework for a series of sales that will probably see C&W's ownership fall to 30 per cent or less.

C&W, led by Dick Brown, its American chief executive, said it had agreed to transfer more

Hongkong Telecom shares to China Telecom "in expectation of C&W and China Telecom becoming equal shareholders in Hongkong Telecom". It is not yet clear which company would control Hongkong Telecom at that point.

Morgan Stanley, the Wall Street investment bank, and China International Capital Corp, a joint venture between the Chinese Government and Morgan Stanley, acted as Beijing's advisers on the deal.

Neither they nor C&W would reveal details, but it is understood that C&W will reduce its stake to about 30 per cent within the next year.

C&W said that, in effect, it is trading a reduced stake in Hongkong Telecom for better access to China. The fastest-

growing and potentially largest phone market in the world. "We expect this partnership to deepen and develop further as new opportunities for investment in the China market are identified and quantified," he said. "The new ownership arrangements give C&W, Hongkong Telecom and China Telecom an enduring stake in each other's prosperity."

C&W said that Hongkong Telecom, with China Telecom as a significant investor, will have better access to the Chinese market.

In addition, C&W has been given the right to invest in China Telecom (Hong Kong), the China Telecom business that was set up in Hong Kong to gain access to capital markets. China Telecom (Hong

Kong) will develop telecoms businesses in both Hong Kong and China. It is expected that C&W's ownership in China Telecom (Hong Kong) will rise as its stake in Hongkong Telecom falls. Mr Brown was vague on any projects in which Hongkong Telecom and China Telecom (Hong Kong) would participate.

C&W has been under pressure from Beijing for some time to reduce its ownership in Hongkong Telecom before July 1, when the colony reverts to Chinese control. Mr Brown denied that the handover date imposed a deadline, leaving him little room to manoeuvre.

"There is nothing that forced us to do this," he said.

Tempus, page 30

**CBI to call for £3bn tax increase**

BY PHILIP BASSETT  
AND ALASDAIR MURRAY

**THE CONFEDERATION OF BRITISH INDUSTRY** will call next week for a £3 billion rise in personal taxes, in an attempt to stave off further interest rate increases.

The CBI's move follows the Bank of England's decision yesterday to raise rates a quarter point, to 6.5 per cent.

On Tuesday, the CBI will launch its proposals for Labour's first Budget on July 1, concerned that the recovery is becoming unbalanced, with consumer spending growing rapidly while a strong pound erodes export orders.

The CBI is expected to argue that the Government could make Budget savings of up to £4 billion a year through better use of contracting-out of services and improved procurement. It will argue that tax rises can be made through restricting allowances and reliefs, pushing up the rate of VAT, or bringing in more "green" taxes. But the CBI will make a strong case against any changes in corporation or capital gains taxation.

Kate Barker, chief economic adviser to the CBI, criticised the Bank's decision to raise rates, claiming that short-term inflationary pressures are subdued. But the rate rise was largely well received, with analysts saying that it established the credibility of the monetary policy committee.

The FTSE 100 closed up 68.8 points, at 4,645.0, as traders concluded that the Bank's decision, along with a tight Budget, could remove the need for further rate rises over the next 18 months. The market was also boosted by weaker than expected US employment data. Most City economists expect interest rates to rise to 7 per cent in the next few months. But they remain uncertain about the Bank's future strategy.

Tempus, page 30

**WEEKEND MONEY**

**33**

Anne Ashworth  
on a Revenue miscalculation

**MORTGAGE**

**29**

What EMU means  
for your mortgage  
and the markets

**INVESTMENT**

**32**

Norwich Union.  
The prospect for  
the shares

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

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12

13

14

15

16

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120

121

122

# Bupa agrees £76m deal for nursing homes group

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

GRAHAM SMITH, chief executive of Goldsborough HealthCare, will be £2 million richer after yesterday's £76.7 million agreed bid from Bupa, the private healthcare provider.

Bupa is to pay a 40 per cent premium for the Leeds-based Goldsborough, which specialises in nursing homes and which last year fought off a hostile takeover bid from its

rival, Westminster Health Care. The cash offer from Bupa values Goldsborough shares at 175p a piece, compared with Thursday night's closing price of 126p.

The purchase is part of Bupa's plan to diversify and access a broader range of healthcare delivery and services as the medical insurance market becomes increasingly competitive. Bupa, which celebrates its 50th anniversary this year, has 45 per cent of the private healthcare market. At its peak in the 1970s it controlled 75 per cent.

If the recommended deal is accepted by shareholders, Bupa will increase its hospital total to 35 and its nursing homes to 76 from 44. Peter Jacobs, chief executive, said: "This deal is entirely within our development strategy, which is to get into a broader range of healthcare delivery."

The purchase comes days after Bupa acquired 14 nursing homes from Community Hospitals Group, the healthcare company, for £34 million.

## BTR sells Dunlop Cox to Lear

By GEORGE SIVELL

SHARES in BTR, the engineering conglomerate, fell another 5p to 183½p, the lowest since 1990, after announcing the sale of Dunlop Cox to Lear Corporation for £36 million.

Dunlop Cox designs and makes manual and electrically powered automotive seat mechanisms. In the year to end December, Dunlop Cox generated sales of £25 million. Lear Corporation is one of the world's largest manufacturers of car seats.

Ian Strachan, chief executive of BTR, said: "Many sectors of the automotive components industry are consolidating as the automotive manufacturers standardise vehicle designs internationally and seek to source parts on a global basis."

He added that under Lear's ownership, Dunlop Cox would be in a stronger position to pursue opportunities for growth.

BTR would also be able to release management and capital resources to concentrate on further development worldwide.



Graeme Thomson, left, and Oliver Waldron are targeting Turkmenistan and Thailand

## Eurotunnel rebel meets bankers

By JASON NISSE

SOPHIE L'HÉLIAS, the leader of the dissident shareholders in Eurotunnel hoping to block its £4.4 billion refinancing deal, has met members of the bank steering committee in the hope of brokering a deal to save the refinancing.

Mr Jacobs added that the six hospitals owned by Goldsborough fitted well with its existing geographical spread and he was looking to make further acquisitions although none was in the pipeline yet.

Bupa made a surplus before tax of £88.9 million in 1996 and had a capital and reserves total of £638.5 million.

Goldsborough shareholders will be entitled to retain the interim dividend of 1.4p net per share proposed for payment on July 21.

She says the restructuring document does not show her concerns.

"What is clear is that this restructuring will not be enough," said Ms L'Hélias. "But the banks will dilute the shareholders enough so that they can push through any proposals without opposition next time."

Ms L'Hélias put her case to Patrick Ponsolle, joint chairman of Eurotunnel, three weeks ago.

She says the restructuring document does not show her concerns.

## Dragon Oil cash call for £65m

DRAGON OIL, the exploration and production company, is raising around £65 million through a three-five rights issue at 2p a share.

The money will fund drilling and more development offshore in Turkmenistan, and an appraisal with Texaco, of a Thal gas discovery.

Dragon, where Oliver Waldron is deputy chairman and chief executive, and Graeme Thomson is finance director, revealed a loss before tax of \$44,000 (loss £1.5 million) for the year to December 31. Earnings were 0.01 cents (0.07 cents a share).

Again there is no dividend. The shares fell from 3½p to 3½p.

## Rowland to forsake unlimited liability

By JON ASHWORTH

HUNDREDS of Lloyd's names turned up at the annual meeting yesterday to told unlimited liability is dead.

Sir David Rowland, chairman of Lloyd's, told the meeting that he would join the exodus away from traditional underwriting, under which names are personally liable for their losses at Lloyd's, after he retires. He intends to switch into one of the limited liability companies that dominate the new-look Lloyd's.

Sir David said: "Unlimited personal liability has been shown to mean exactly what it says. I no longer believe that the substantial advantages of that method should blind us to its possible consequences for the individual."

Names arriving at London's Barbican Centre were met by protesters brandishing banners bearing slogans such as: "Lloyd's is licensed to steal", and "Lloyd's means fraud". Sally Noel, the former Sixties model who led the protest, was drowned out by a slow hand-clap when she attempted to disrupt the meeting.

Ron Sandler, chief executive of Lloyd's, told the meeting that profits for 1994 were likely to be paid by the end of next month. Lloyd's is pressing on with legal action aimed at recovering £630 million from names who have not settled up under the reconstruction and renewal (R&R) plan.

About 1,500 names owing more than £400 million have agreed to accept the R&R settlement. A further 1,700 owing just under £200 million have accepted, but have yet to settle. Mr Sandler said: "We have no choice but to take all legal steps available to us to recover these debts, and this we are doing with absolute determination."

Debt recoveries will not be required to plug any financial gap at Equitas, the company formed to reinsurance Lloyd's 1992 and prior-year debts. Equitas will be fully funded by the end of this month, and debt recoveries will be used to reduce outstanding bank loans. Lloyd's took on a facility of £292 million from a syndicate of banks as part of the R&R programme.

City Diary, page 29

## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

### Jobless setback for German economy

GERMANY'S efforts to get fit for the single European currency suffered another blow as unemployment went up again. The seasonally adjusted jobless total for May rose 6,000, to 4.36 million. The Federal Labour Office said yesterday that the Government's target figure of 3.95 million jobless for 1997 is "no longer attainable".

Otmar Issing, chief economist of the Bundesbank, called the job figures "more than disappointing". The economy was not growing fast enough to revive Germany's employment prospects, he said. Higher unemployment could force Bonn to spend more than expected on jobless benefits at a time when it already expects a DM18 billion shortfall in tax revenue. Earlier this year unemployment rose above 4 million for the first time since 1933. Stephen James, a HSBC James Capel economist, said: "It is now increasingly clear that Theo Waigel [Finance Minister] will be unable to bring Germany's budget deficit down to 3 per cent of GDP this year."

### Ex-Lands executives quit

THE Bourne brothers, Graham and Robert, are resigning from the board of Ex-Lands after a proposed reverse takeover of the property group by Marylebone Warwick Balfour Group, the residential developer backing the Mount Vernon development in Hampstead, north London, and warehouse conversions in Docklands. Ex-Lands, which last year demerged its golf club interests into Clubhaus, is making a £21.1 million offer for MWB plus a £5 million rights issue at 17.5p.

### Park Foods optimistic

PARK FOODS, the Christmas hamper company, expects to see profits from its first venture into food manufacturing, DJ Spud's flavoured french fries, begin to arrive this year. The chips have had "a good reception in the market place". Peter Johnson, chairman, said yesterday. In the year to March 31 pre-tax profits were £9.6 million (£9.5 million). Earnings per share were 4.1p (3.89p) and a maintained final dividend of 1.88p, due on September 1, gives an unchanged total of 2.98p.

### Kohl backs Eurofighter

HELMUT KOHL, the German Chancellor, told Tony Blair on his visit to Germany yesterday that he continues to believe the Eurofighter is needed and wants a decision soon. A British official said the Prime Minister was "extremely pleased" with Herr Kohl's comments, which could signal an end to the funding hold-up. The £45 billion fighter aircraft is the biggest European industrial project and thousands of jobs at British Aerospace and at sub-contractors depend on a go-ahead.

### Thames looks to Jakarta

THAMES WATER is to put £44 million into a 25-year water supply scheme for Jakarta. The Indonesian project, in which Thames is participating as a 70 per cent shareholder in a consortium, will involve no construction work. Thames rationalised its international operations after losing heavily in overseas projects that included building work. The Jakarta programme is expected to deliver turnover of £57 million a year in the first five years growing to £200 million a year later on.

### Seagate jobs to double

SEAGATE, the leading data storage technology company, is to more than double its workforce in Northern Ireland in a £149 million expansion. The company already employs around 1,000 staff at the plant in Springfield, Derry, which produces 20 per cent of the world's magnetic recording head wafers for computer disk drives. Northern Ireland's Industrial Development Board is contributing almost £40 million towards the cost of the new fabrication plant.

### Ann Street sales up 12%

ANN STREET, the brewery whose shares trade on the Alternative Investment Market, raised pre-tax profits by 22 per cent to £7.5 million, in the year to January 26, on sales up 12 per cent to £86 million. Earnings rose 28 per cent, to 49.32p, out of which total dividends rise 11 per cent to 20.5p. The final dividend rises from 13.52p to 14.5p. Debts fell from 54 to 39 per cent of shareholders' funds. The group operates in the United Kingdom, Jersey, Guernsey and France.

## Powderject raises £35m

By PAUL DURMAN

POWDERJECT Pharmaceuticals, which has developed a way of injecting drugs without using a needle, has been valued at £109.3 million by a share placing that raised £35 million for the Oxford company.

Powderject's advisers said that demand from institutional investors had significantly exceeded the 18.9 million shares available. Stock market dealings in the shares, which were priced at 185p, should begin in ten days.

The flotation gives Paul Drayson, chairman and chief executive, a paper fortune of £15.7 million. Brian Bellhouse, research director, will have a stake worth £7.8 million. Directors and senior management will own about 22.9 per cent of the company.

### TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buy	Bank Sell
Australia \$	2.23	2.07
Austria Sch	20.72	18.17
Belgium Fr	60.97	56.30
Canada \$	2.359	2.184
China Cny	0.018	0.017
Denmark Kr	11.25	10.42
Finland Mk	8.86	8.28
France Fr	9.22	8.54
Germany Dm	2.97	2.74
Greece Dr	473	456
Hong Kong \$	15.30	12.13
Iceland Kr	1.27	1.07
Ireland P	1.14	1.06
Irael Shk	5.87	5.22
Italy L	2.00	1.76
Japan Yen	201.80	186.40
Malta	0.686	0.604
Netherlands Gld	3.344	3.104
New Zealand \$	2.21	2.26
Norway Kr	12.21	11.33
Portugal Esc	295.50	275.00
Spain Pta	25.28	25.01
Sweden Kr	13.37	12.34
Switzerland Fr	7.50	7.00
Turkey Lira	241.80	222.57
USA \$	1.723	1.587

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Current rates apply to £100 in cash cheques, unless as at close of trading yesterday.

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July 10 1997

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## A WORKING WEEK FOR: BRENDAN GUILFOYLE

# Expert who tackles problems great and small

**Tattooed roofers. Big liquidations. Or tea with a minister. Jason Nisse meets an insolvency adviser who can take anything in his stride**

Monday  
Tuesday  
Wednesday  
Thursday  
Friday

THE archives of the Bromley and Kentish Times from 1975 boast a photograph of a fresh-faced 21-year-old, resplendent in an ill-fitting suit and sporting a worryingly bushy mid-Seventies haircut. Close inspection reveals it to be Brendan Guilfoyle, the recently elected president of the Society of Practitioners in Insolvency (SPI), who was then a newly qualified accountant at the now forgotten City firm of Allen, Baldrey, Holman and Best.

Guilfoyle recalls: "My father — who was a crane driver from Ireland — was peered to see all those pictures of people who had passed their accountancy exams, who he thought looked rather ageing, in the paper. He came out of the pub one day and decided to go into the office and tell them, in no uncertain terms, that he had a son who was 21 and a chartered accountant. I think he claimed that I was the youngest accountant in England, which probably wasn't true. Anyway, they came and took my photo and wrote a little article about me."

Guilfoyle, though, found the cut and thrust of City auditing a little stifling. During his first week at it, he was told how he should act if he came across a partner in the firm of accountants walking down the corridor. "You are to avert your eyes to the wainscoting," Guilfoyle was told. He nodded understandingly. And then when he came home that evening he asked his mother what "wainscoting" was.

His fiancée, Veronica, was the daughter of Bob Helyer, one of the founders of the Insolvency Practitioners Association that now forms part of the SPI, and he introduced Guilfoyle to the legendary liquidator Bernard Phillips, father of Peter Phillips of Buchler Phillips, the liquidator carpeted by MPs over its work on the Maxwell empire.

Soon Guilfoyle joined Bernard Phillips & Co, but a year later he moved from Bromley to Leeds for the "quality of life", leaving Phillips for a small firm. He briefly rejoined the Manchester office of Phillips when it was taken over by Arthur Andersen, but left again in 1983 to return to Leeds and join the nascent insolvency practice of Geoffrey Martin & Co.

Having become, as he admits, an honorary Yorkshireman he was the first representative of the SPI's Yorkshire region. After a number of committee posts in the liquidators' trade body he became, a couple of months ago, the first partner in a small regional firm to become president, succeeding the loquacious Gordon Stewart of Allen & Overy, the firm of lawyers, who is known in the industry as a leading authority on Fantasy Football.

The contrast between the life of a small insolvency practitioner in Leeds and that

of the president of the professional association throws up a fascinating working week for Brendan Guilfoyle. In the week that *The Times* had been to see him, he had spent the first couple of days sorting out the problems of a roofing contractor in Shipley, near Bradford.

The roofer had run up heavy debts and an unlicensed insolvency adviser had suggested that he attempt an individual's voluntary arrangement with his creditors to avoid bankruptcy. Sensibly, he decided to go to Guilfoyle, but the Inland Revenue objected to the deal and the Customs and Excise sent in bailiffs to the roofer's home. Guilfoyle received an anguished call from the roofer's eight-month-pregnant wife. He called the roofer on his mobile phone and told him to come to his office. The roofer arrived in his overalls, sleeves rolled up to reveal tattooed arms. Guilfoyle helped the roofer to fill out the forms to have himself immediately declared bankrupt and get a protection order on his assets. "Of course, he had no money to pay us, so I ended up doing the work pro bono," says Guilfoyle.

The next day he was at a large engineering company in south Yorkshire that had collapsed. The business had been sold to a management buyout and Guilfoyle was asked to deal with the liquidation. He sat down with the directors, over lunch in their boardroom, to sort out the details. Unusually in an increasingly specialist profession, Guilfoyle deals with the whole gamut of insolvency, from personal bankruptcies to large liquidations.

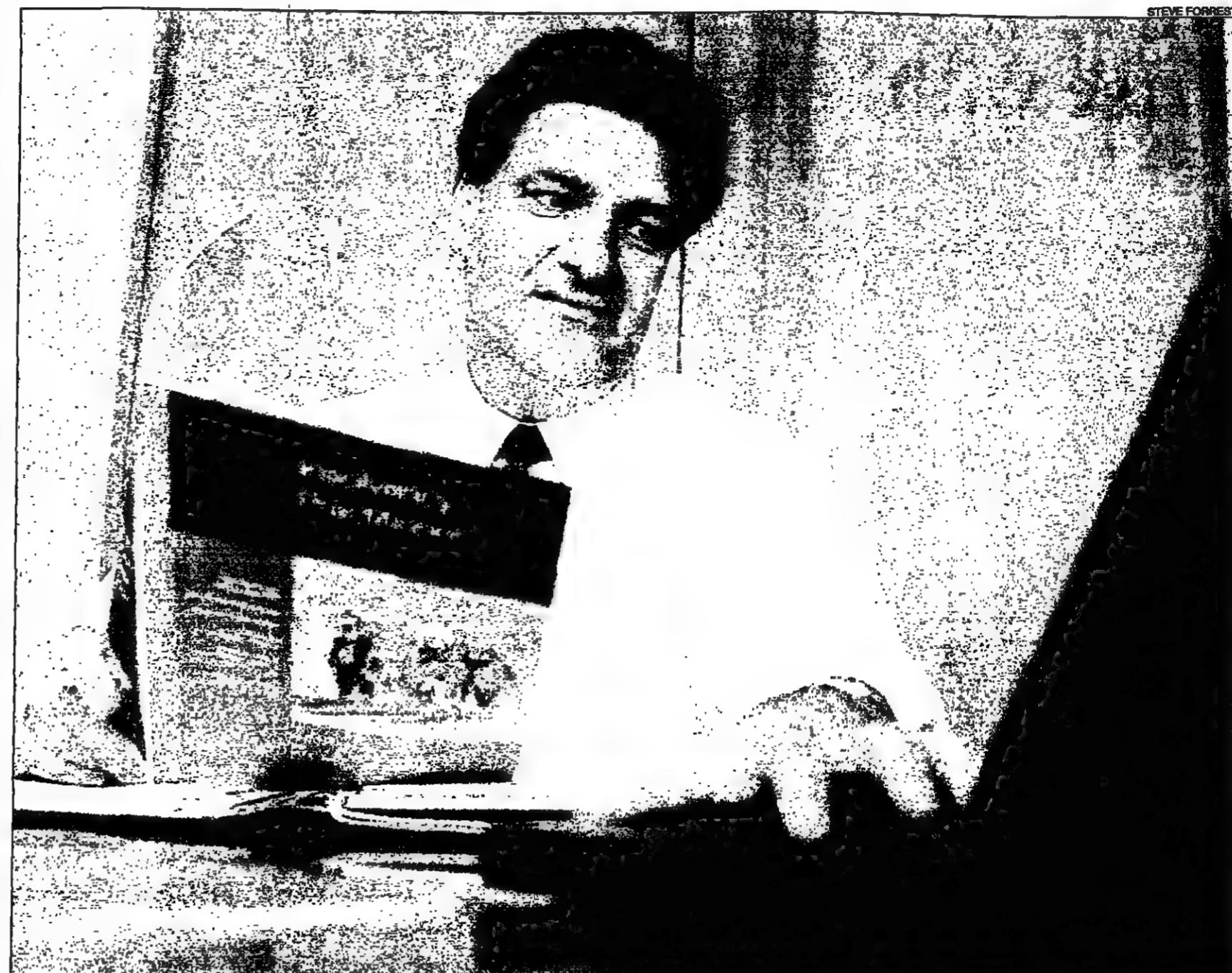
The worst case he has had to tackle involved a couple in business together running an off-shore company in Bradford. When it failed the pair were made bankrupt. Not only was their house repossessed, but they could not find anywhere to rent as they could not obtain a bank reference. Guilfoyle put them in touch with a person in Hull who finds properties for people who have been made bankrupt.

The largest company he has handled was Sunseeker Leisure, the tour operator that collapsed with debts of £10 million. At the request of Hammond Suddards, the Leeds-based law firm, he was due to liquidate Facia, Stephen Hinchliffe's retailing group that went under a year ago with debts of more than £100 million.

But at the creditors' meeting he was voted off the ticket by Sears, the largest creditor, and he stood down in favour of BDO Stoy Hayward.

"It would have been the largest and most high-profile insolvency I had ever dealt with," says Guilfoyle. "They had looked for someone who hadn't previously had any connection with Hinchliffe and was beyond reproach. I relished the challenge."

On the Thursday he took the train to London to visit Peter Joyce, the head of the Insolvency Service, the government body



Brendan Guilfoyle found the cut and thrust of City auditing a little stifling and decided to move to the North of England for the quality of life

that deals with many compulsory liquidations. When Guilfoyle turned up he was told that Nigel Griffiths, Minister of State at the Department of Trade and Industry, had arrived to meet Joyce. Joyce thought it would be useful for Guilfoyle to meet the new minister as well. So just 48 hours after advising a tattooed roofer on how to avoid having his TV set repossessed, he was taking tea with a newly elected minister.

Guilfoyle reckons he has to spend up to two days a week in London. When he travels down he stays with his mother in Bromley. "It's really nice to spend time with my mum," he says. "But when I am in London I go back to that life of being a commuter, catching the train into central London every morning, and I think: 'Aren't I lucky to live in the North with the quality of life I have up there?'

In Leeds his day starts with the school run. Guilfoyle, one of six children, is the father of nine, ranging from the youngest, just one, to the eldest, a son who turned 18 last year and is currently travelling round the world on his "gap" year. "Christmas in our family is like the feeding of the 5,000," he laughs.

Most of the children attend schools in central Leeds, while Guilfoyle lives in the leafy suburb of Bramhope. The school run is quite a social event. Many of the leading lights of Leeds business and professional life have children attending the same schools and contacts are often made at the school gate.

Guilfoyle is not a member of a golf club. "With nine children you don't have time for hobbies," he says. "I spend most of my free time ferrying children here or there."

Guilfoyle believes that Leeds is the ideal place to be for doing business in the North of England. Increasingly, professional and financial firms are locating there rather than Manchester, as has been shown by the success of the Leeds-based law firms such as Hammond Suddards and Dibb Lupton Alsop. Even so Guilfoyle finds Leeds a small, friendly and diverse place to work.

The only thing he misses from London is going to watch Tottenham Hotspur, the team that he has supported since his father took him to see Danny Blanchflower going through his paces in 1960. "They play in Leeds and Sheffield occasionally and I say to my wife 'I think I'll pop down,'" Guilfoyle says. "But then my wife puts her foot down and says: 'Oh no you don't!'"

He might be president of the SPI, but there is only one boss in the Guilfoyle household.

## Liffe story

AHEAD of yesterday evening's splendid celebrations at Syon House to celebrate the 15th anniversary of Liffe, the futures market has published its official history. The writer, City historian David Kynaston, has gone back to the 1848 grain trading at the Chicago Board of Trade, the precursor to Liffe and other such markets. I asked him what was the most interesting area to research. "Definitely the Bund contract," he replies, referring to the introduction of trading in German government bonds.

More amusing, perhaps, were the occasions in 1986 when Liffe opened its doors to a couple of TV programme-makers. The results were not good, for futures trading and the City as a whole. Viewers were repelled by the chaos of the dealing floor and the barrow-boy triumphalism of some of the participants. The estimable Nancy Banks-Smith in *The Guardian* summed up best the experience of trading at Liffe: "It was like being a dog biscuit in Battersea."

SALLY NOEL, the veteran Lloyd's campaigner, was in

full cry at yesterday's annual meeting of Lloyd's names — but found herself curiously caught up in events elsewhere. On the same day, an obituary in *The Independent* of Ronnie Lane, the Sixties pop star, included a photograph of members of the Small Faces posing with a demure-looking model ... a very youthful-looking Sally Noel.

### On the rebound

I HEAR that Robin Launders, ousted rather abruptly last month as managing director of the Premiership's nil-nil specialists Leeds United, is close to finding a new berth. He is in talks about taking the job of chief executive at the International Football Hall of Fame, the new exhibition to be based in Manchester. This is nothing to do with the World Football Hall of Fame, a similar project based in the Trocadero and funded by a flotation on AIM. Nor yet the International Football Hall of Champions, being set up in Paris to coincide with next year's World Cup. Launders will have his work cut out making sure people know the difference. And as Leeds fans can testify, he doesn't know a lot about entertainment.

### Triple peaks

JOHN THEAKSTON, chief executive of housebuilder Swan Hill, intends a 40,000-ft mountain climb and is next week writing to possible corporate sponsors suggesting a rate of £1 per foot. The sharp-witted among you will note that there are no mountains above 30,000 feet on the planet. Theakston and three other fortysomethings are climbing Mont Blanc, starting in July. Ben Nevis and Kilimanjaro. I wish him the best of luck but fear the omens are not good — as part of his training, he has



already fallen off his bicycle in Richmond Park and spent a week in the West Middlesex Hospital.

IN THE fine tradition of obsessive English hobbyists, Mike Lloyd, otherwise known as *Pallas Pictures*, is the owner of some 100 video tapes, 250 hours' worth, of the Royal Family on holiday. "I shot everything myself over the past 10 years," said the Guildford man proudly, having followed the quarrelsome House of Windsor to the ends of the Earth with his minicam. Lloyd has set the price of the collection at a royal £500,000 — which may explain why he has received just one offer, and turned it down, more than two months ago. Lloyd admits that at this price he doesn't expect many bids from the private sector. "Maybe the BBC will read this," he says.

### Academy award

TWO British professors have been elected fellows of the prestigious American Academy of Management, the first Brits to be awarded such an honour. Actually, one is only half-British, because it is our old friend Cary Cooper, who has dual nationality — with a name like that, he has to have been born in Hollywood — but has spent almost all of his academic career here. He is currently (deep breath) Professor

of Organisational Psychology at Manchester School of Management at UMIST.

The second is Andrew Pettigrew, Professor of Organisational Behaviour at Warwick Business School. There are only a hundred or so fellows on the planet, and promotion is strictly by dead men's shoes. Says Cooper: "It's a recognition that it's done somewhere else than America."

### Baby blues

I HATE to be the one to scratch one of the Square Mile's best stories now doing the rounds, but it is simply not true. Somebody, and the epicentre of the gossip seems to be some old friends of hers at Morgan Grenfell, is putting it about that Nicola Horlick is expecting another child. Horlick herself is not best pleased. She is due to start at Société Générale in nine days' time. I rang her about the stories. "If it's in connection with a rumour that's circulating around the City that I'm pregnant with a sixth child, then you can be assured that's absolutely categorically untrue, and I don't know who is running around saying that," she says firmly.

MARTIN WALLER



Nicola Horlick has firmly stated that she is not expecting a sixth child

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## STOCK MARKET



MICHAEL CLARK

# Investors celebrate rate rise with 68-point gain

INTEREST rates rose yesterday for the second time this year and the City liked it. The quarter-point rise to 5.5 per cent, initiated by the Governor of the Bank of England's new monetary policy committee, was seen as the right move by investors. There had been fears that a rate would be postponed until after next month's Budget and that would have created further uncertainty.

Both equities and government securities enjoyed a fresh burst of activity to end the week on a positive note.

Wall Street also came up trumps, shrugging off the lowest employment numbers since 1973 for the Dow Jones industrial average to score an early 100-point plus lead.

The FT-SE 100 index closed at its best of the day, with a rise of 68.3 to 4,652.0, a rise on the week of 23.7. A total of 915.8 million shares changed hands yesterday.

Richard Jeffrey, senior economist at Charterhouse, the merchant bank, said the rise was needed. 'To put it off would have been a mistake. But he warned clients: 'The market is living under the threat of much more aggressive rises later in the year. The US seems quite determined to ignore all the potentially bad news in the economy'.

Cable & Wireless was the best performer among the top 100 companies after selling 5.5 per cent of its Hong Kong Telecom subsidiary to China Telecom for £726 million. Brokers said the deal opens up the mainland Chinese telecom market to C&W. The shares finished 74.1p, or almost 15 per cent, higher at 572p.

The financial sector was again leading the rest of the market higher, with a fresh burst of bid speculation adding to the spike. Abbey National continued to build on this week's lead with a further rise of 16p to 859.1p.

This follows claims that talks with NatWest Bank may be back on again. Earlier this week Abbey National's Peter Birch said the company had no intention of merging with NatWest or anyone else for that matter. However, the story continues to do the rounds. Other brokers are even suggesting that the Prudential, up 8p to 6351.5p, may choose to launch a bid for Abbey. Some followers of the banking sector are pinning their hopes on a bid emerging



Lord Tugendhat, the chairman of Abbey National, and Peter Birch saw the shares rise 16p on takeover talk

from HSBC, owner of the Midland Bank chain, and Britain's biggest banking group by a long way.

Analysts say HSBC would love to buy Abbey, which would fit well and strengthen certain parts of its retail operation. Even NatWest, up 43p to 780.5p, is seen as vulnerable to a bid. Others to gain ground included

guarantees the group will remain a constituent of the top 100 companies.

Rank Group jumped 26p to 448.1p after finally confirming plans to sell its remaining 20 per cent stake in Rank Xerox to Xerox Corporation for £1 billion. Rank intends to use part of the proceeds to buy back £250 million worth of its own shares, reduce debt and

lion. Last night Bupa snapped up 11.45 million Goldsborough shares (29.4 per cent) at 173p.

Bass was a flat market, falling 19p to 754p. Merrill Lynch has cut its profit forecast for the current year by £6 million to £722 million and by £12 million to £778 million next time round.

A profits setback and overnight selling in Canada left Ashurst Technology 71p up to 471p, while growing losses at Rodrim clipped the shares 1p to 12p.

PKF firms 4p to 179p ahead of results next week. Mercury Asset Management has topped up its holding with 5.19 million shares, raising its total holding to 90.6 million, or 16 per cent. Brokers like NatWest Securities are forecasting a near 30 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £116 million.

Bid speculation pushed Essex Furniture 5p higher to 78.1p. Speculators are talking of an offer from DFS Furniture, its bigger rival, unchanged at 607.1p, while Essex at about 99 million.

The successful conclusion to the 'fat cat' dispute between the Government and Camelot brought relief to some of its shareholders. Cadbury Schweppes put on 10p to 530.1p, and Racial Electronics finished just 11p cheaper at 227.1p. But there was little relief for De La Rue, 71p off at 38.1p, which weighed in with some dismal profit news earlier in the week.

□ **GILT-EDGED:** There was a further flattening of the yield curve as the longer end of the market responded positively to the latest rise in base rates.

Prices closed near their best of the day, supported by rumours that the deadline for meeting the single currency criteria had been delayed.

In the futures pit, the September series of the long gilt put on £21.32 to £114.16 as the total number of contracts completed reached 99,000.

□ **CHINA CALLING:** There

Speculative buying continued to push Shield Diagnostics higher. The price touched 627.1p before closing 25p dearer at 595p, stretching the gain on the week to 185p. Talk of a bid persists after the shares fell from a peak of 805p this year. UBS, the group's new broker, publishes a major review on Monday.

Barclays, 161p to 111.77, Lloyds TSB, 15p to 601.5p, Royal Bank of Scotland, 7.1p to 624p, Standard Chartered, 7.1p to 599.1p, and Alliance & Leicester, 2p to 604.1p, half-way, this week's newcomer, rose up to 735.1p. Lasmo rose a further 16p to 275p as brokers continue to reflect on the group's successful acquisition of oilfields in Venezuela. This stretches the rise on the week to 29p and virtually

invest in its leisure and entertainment divisions.

But BTR suffered a relapse, falling 5p to 188.1p, its lowest level for six years. Last week the shares were hit by a profits warning.

Goldsbrough Health soared 46.1p to 172.1p in response to the agreed bid from Bupa. The private healthcare provider, Bupa, is offering 175p a share, valuing Goldsbrough at £67.7 million.

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## HOPES DASHED 41

Halifax  
handout  
headache

WEEKEND  
MONEY

## TAX-FORM BLUES 37

An extra item  
to add to your  
holiday list



THE TIMES: PERSONAL FINANCE NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

# Mixed blessing under EMU's wing

Caroline Merrell explains the implications for UK investors of the single currency in 1999

**T**he events in Germany and France this week mean economic and monetary union (EMU) has become even more like the unfortunate flightless Australian bird that shares its name. The election of the socialist Lionel Jospin as the French Prime Minister, makes it less likely that France will be able to meet the Maastricht criteria in time for the introduction of the single currency in early 1999. M Jospin is sceptical about EMU and has already delayed the privatisation programme that would have helped the Government to reduce its debts to satisfy the Maastricht criteria. Equally, in Germany, in spite of Chancellor Helmut Kohl's best endeavours, the Bundesbank is refusing to allow revaluation of gold reserves to be used to reduce government debts.

As France and Germany are the two strongest proponents of the single currency, a weakening of their position has a significant impact on the entire concept of monetary union and Britain's part in it — if it decides to have one. European Governments now have to revise their plans. The Euro may be delayed or softened, and even if a compromise is hammered out, the UK may still opt not to join. Here *The Times*, in the first of a two-part series, explains the impact of these various scenarios on interest and mortgage rates, currencies, and fixed-interest securities such as gilts, savings and investments.

**Q** If the euro is "softened", what will the impact be on interest rates?

**A** A softer euro is simply a relaxation of the economic targets that countries have to meet in order to be part of the single currency. At the moment this seems to be one of the more likely outcomes of the political turbulence in Europe this week. Roger Bootle, chief economist at HSBC, says if the euro is softened and the UK participates, interest and mortgage rates will rise and convergence with the low interest rates in Germany will be less likely. The argument against other countries, such as Italy, joining will be weaker.

He adds that if the euro softens and we stay out, our interest rates will fall. He said: "International investors will buy sterling as an alternative to a weakened euro, pushing down interest rates." But some analysts say a strong pound has not stopped the newly independent Bank of England from raising interest rates to control inflation.

Barry Naiburg, Abbey National

**M**any of the UK's largest firms of funds managers appeared reluctant to discuss how their European trusts had fared this week, against the background of economic upheaval in France and Germany (Caroline Merrell writes).

Figures from Micropal, the statistics house, showed that some European funds have fallen as much as 3 per cent in just a few days, as French and German markets fell in reaction to political events. Mercury's European growth fund fell more than 3 per cent in the seven days to June 4. The Mercury European privatisation fund has a 14 per cent exposure to stocks in France.

The fund manager said the French market almost immediately gained the 6 per cent it lost because of the first round of the elections. Mercury said: "Privatisations have been cancelled or delayed. The Socialists are a worst-case scenario. There

economist, believes that interest rates in the UK will remain unaffected by the single currency, whether we join or not. He said: "If we continue to have the low inflation we have enjoyed over the past five years, interest rates will remain in the 5.25 to 7 per cent band. We can look forward to low-cost mortgages for some years to come."

**Q** If the euro is delayed, then what will be the impact on interest rates?

**A** A delay in the introduction of the euro, set for January 1, 1999, will be seen as an admission by participating countries that the project is flawed, and in danger of abandonment. International investors would switch from sterling, which has been a "safe haven" currency. The fact that the mark is no longer seen to be weak by aligning with other currencies, means international investors will buy marks, weakening sterling, giving the Bank the latitude to lift interest rates, without hurting manufacturers with a strong pound.

Howard Davies, the future head of the Securities and Investments Board, warned banks and financial services companies against gambling on convergence. He said: "We, as regulators, are interested to know whether you have undertaken a prudent assessment of how vulnerable you are to uncertain events in the market."

*Next week: pensions, holiday cash*

**What impact will the softened euro have on currency?**

**A** A softened euro would tend to buy sterling and sell marks, thus raising sterling's strength. The strong pound is already creating problems for companies that have large overseas profits. A strong pound, however, would make imports cheaper, thus keeping

downwards pressure on inflation and interest rates. Stephen Whitaker, Perpetual fund manager, said: "Strong sterling is bad for manufacturers but will help stocks."

**Q** What effect will a delayed or weakened euro have on fixed-interest investments?

**A** The yield on UK gilts and other fixed-interest assets

such as corporate bonds are linked to interest rates and inflation. The price of gilts rose and their yields fell after the announcement of an independent Bank of England — the markets took the view that an independent bank would be tougher on inflation than one where the Government had a hand. Gilts not eroded by inflation are more valuable. Many of the UK's biggest fund managers, including banks

and building societies that offer fixed-rate loans or savings products, have for the past five years operated a "convergence play". This means they assume all fixed-interest investments will have similar yields in 1999. They may buy Italian fixed interest securities which now have a higher yield than German bonds. As the likelihood of Italy joining the EMU grows, prices will rise and yields fall.

This week, Howard Davies, the future head of the Securities and Investments Board, warned banks and financial services companies against gambling on convergence. He said: "We, as regulators, are interested to know whether you have undertaken a prudent assessment of how vulnerable you are to uncertain events in the market."

*Next week: pensions, holiday cash*

## Elections knock performance of European trusts

are much broader implications for the banking sector. There was hope that the right wing would sort out the sector; this is unlikely under a Socialist government."

Raj Shant, of Credit Suisse, said the new French Government was already talking about increasing the minimum wage and shortening the working week. "Those companies that employ a large number of people such

as the banks will be most affected by this sort of change." The new Government also had an impact on companies that are partly owned by the Government, such as Thomson CSF, the electronics company. "It now looks unlikely that the remaining stakes will be sold off," he said.

Talal Shakerchi, of Old Mutual, claims that many company investment strate-

gies are failing to take into account the possibility that the single currency may not be achieved in 1999.

The signs are that a delay in EMU is on the cards, but almost everybody is still betting on it going ahead on time. They are just following the lead of politicians, and there will be a crunch point soon when this could all fall apart. Investors are not sufficiently aware of the risks."

He identified the banking and utilities sectors as particularly vulnerable to an EMU delay. Fragile areas include countries with weaker currencies which could be the victim of speculators. "There would be a negative impact on Italian, Spanish and even French equities," he said.

A possible delay in EMU is now a key factor in Old Mutual's stock selection, but Mr Shakerchi says his trust is one of the few that recognises the problems associated with a delayed or fudged euro.

WEEKEND MONEY is edited by Anne Ashworth

PERSONAL INVESTOR



JASON NISSE

## A little Sugar in your bowl

**A** few years ago, shortly after Terry Venables was ousted as chief executive of Tottenham Hotspur, rival Arsenal fans taunted Spurs supporters with a banner: "Two cups, no Sugar." The unpopularity of Alan Sugar, the Amstrad and Spur chairman, has hung like a cloud over the two companies he runs. But anyone who invested in Spur when he took control in 1991 would be enjoying a five-fold profit today. And those who kept faith when Amstrad was looking sickly a couple of years ago will be glad they did.

Last week's restructuring of Amstrad is a classic example of how to release value from a company. "Unbundling" was a buzzword at the time of the audacious £13 billion bid for BAT Industries by Hoylake — the unholy alliance of Lord Rothschild, Kerry Packer and Sir James Goldsmith — in 1989. The idea was that by breaking up conglomerates where the companies had no reason to be together, it could be shown that the sum of the parts was worth more than the whole. But Hanson's drawn out unbundling into an energy company, a chemicals company, a tobacco company and a rump has only revealed that the group was merely overvalued in the first place. Then came the splitting up of Thorn EMI, which only showed up the deficiencies in both companies. The Hanson and EMI experience has put off the likes of Tomkins and BTR which might benefit from being broken up.

The unbundling of Amstrad has been on the cards for about a year, though few thought Sugar would go as far as he

did in smashing up the structure he created. The seeds of the end go back a good three-and-a-half years when Sugar — clearly unhappy with the way the City reacted to Amstrad's problems with its PC2260 and PC2386 personal computers — tried to take the company private with a bid of less than £200 million. Though Sugar started with 34 per cent of the shares, shareholders thought his offer so unappealing that he wasn't able to get majority control. Amstrad shares languished at about Sugar's offer price until 12 months ago when *The Times* revealed that Psion, the hand-held computer maker, was in talks which might lead to an offer for Amstrad of up to £250 million. Psion walked away a few weeks later muttering that Amstrad was not worth that much. How wrong it was.

The key to unleashing the value latent in Amstrad was Dancall, the mobile phone maker which Sugar picked up for a song a couple of years ago. Bosch

bought it for £92 million leaving Amstrad with £200 million of cash. This is now being handed back to shareholders by way of a loan note, which can be cashed in any time over the next three years. Of course shareholders will have to pay capital gains tax, but this structure allows them to crystallise the profit at a time when it is most tax advantageous. In the break up, Viglen, the PC maker, is being given its freedom with analysts valuing it at anything from £80 million to £140 million. The Betamax stake also goes to shareholders. This is woefully undervalued at £31 million as the business now owns the contract to make digital set-top boxes for the British Interactive Broadcasting consortium, which could be worth as much as £200 million. The final piece of the jigsaw is the possible income from the legal actions arising from the personal computer disaster. The court case in the UK against Seagate Technology went in Amstrad's favour and the US action against Western Digital is going well. So at least £100 million should come from the court cases. Adding the whole lot together you can see a value from Amstrad in the region of £450 million.

However, Amstrad's break up is not going to restore the credibility of unbundling entirely — it is too small to do that. But by creating an extra £200 million for shareholders, Sugar has proven that his bleeding that the market never realised Amstrad's value was right and he has made Psion look a bunch of mugs.

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Marianne Curphey on the latest instalment in the windfall bonanza

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## Harvest comes early down Norwich way

### A QUESTION OF MONEY

**Q** How much will my Norwich Union shares be worth?

**A** The price of the shares will not be confirmed until June 16, the first day the Norwich Union officially begins trading on the stock market. Two weeks ago Norwich Union said the price range for its public offer was expected to be 240p to 290p but even the upper figure may now reach 350p.

**Q** Who sets the price for the shares?

**A** The price, like the price of all shares traded, is set by market supply and demand. Financial bookmakers have been making predictions, based on demand from merchant banks and large institutional investors, that Norwich Union will open at 350p. This is the price being quoted on the unofficial "grey" market before trading begins. These bookmakers' predictions proved to be right in the case of the Halifax flotation.

**Q** What caused the grey market price to rise?

**A** NU's opening price has also been pushed up by market optimism about financial stocks, and the recent strong run of shares in the banking and insurance sectors. There is not likely to be such a scramble for NU shares as there was for Alliance & Leicester shares because institutions like pension funds, have a chance to buy shares in an auction known as a placing. Each demutualisation is proving unique, and takeover speculation will inflate demand for NU shares.

**Q** So how much will I receive in total?

**A** At a 350p opening price, the average shares windfall for NU members would be about £1,400 and the minimum allocation of 300 free shares for 1.8 million policyholders would be £1,050. A further 1.1 million non-profit



Worth checking: Michael Nathan gets almost 40 per cent more

policyholders will receive a flat rate of 150 shares.

**Q** How can I be sure I will get the right allocation of free shares?

**A** There is no short cut to this other than questioning your allocation with the insurer. One Weekend Money reader, Michael Nathan, asked Norwich Union to check his allocation. After examining a table that NU sent him, Mr Nathan, a consultant with Baker Tilly, the accountants, found that he was entitled to more. NU confirmed he should be receiving 39 per cent more shares.

**Q** What about the members' offer?

**A** NU members have been invited to apply for

extra shares at a 25p discount to the price paid by institutions and non-members. However, they will not know the actual price payable until after the close of the institutional offer on June 13. Stockbrokers have reported great enthusiasm for the members' offer and it is likely to be oversubscribed. This means your application is likely to be scaled down, although you will receive back any unspent cash. Your free share allocation will be unaffected.

**Q** Who provides Peps for windfall shares?

**A** Only Fidelity, Henderson Investors, John Gowen, M&G, Mercury, Perpetual and Save & Prosper will let you hold the shares direct. Other Pep providers require you to swap the shares for units in their own trusts.

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Lazy daze: but don't forget to complete and send off your self-assessment tax form before jetting off to the sun

## The tax-form blues

**Karen Zagor with a reminder for the holiday season**

If you have put your newly minted self-assessment tax form to the bottom of the mail pile until the end of the summer holidays, think again. The first deadline for tax returns under the new rules is September 30, and if you delay too long, you could make life unnecessarily complicated. Until that date, you merely need to fill in the right boxes on the form and the Revenue will calculate your tax liability. Once the deadline is passed, you will have to do your own calculations, or pay a professional. And if you delay beyond January 31, 1998, you could face a £100 fine.

So far, only a tiny fraction of the roughly 8.5 million taxpayers affected by self-assessment have filled in their forms. The Revenue says it had received about 45,000 forms by May 31. Fear of form-filling appears to be deterring a large number of people from tackling their tax forms. The fears may be justified. But according to some estimates, there have been errors in more than 60 per cent of the completed tax forms. The Revenue says its own anecdotal evidence does not support this, but it does estimate that up to 45 per cent of self-assessment tax forms might have to be "corrected or repaired".

So what can you do to avoid becoming another self-assessment statistic? The first thing to remember is that you cannot avoid filling in the forms, so leave plenty of time. The Revenue said: "If people are hurrying to fill in the forms before a deadline they may not do all the 't's and cross all the 'i's. For example, people do not always remember to sign the form."

For the most straightforward cases, such as higher-rate taxpayers with one

source of income, the forms should pose few problems. But even they will need to be organised to avoid making silly mistakes. The first step for all taxpayers is to read through the forms to make sure all the relevant pages are present. The standard form has eight pages, but this is mainly designed for pensioners with limited investments. Most people will need supplemental pages. An employee, for example, will need an extra two pages for every job, and extra pages are also necessary if you inherit money, receive dividends or make capital gains or losses.

The next step is to gather all your records together. Taxpayers now must provide evidence of any claims made — so hold onto bank records showing interest on deposit accounts, P60 statements of income, P11D forms for perks and any documents related to a tax claim.

Fill in every relevant box on the form. A form with blanks or partially answered questions will lead to a form needing to be "repaired". Gerry Hart, head of UK operations of the Tax Team, advises people to watch out for question 13 which asks if you have any other income not already mentioned. "You are just asked to give the figures, but if you do not explain where the money is from it is likely that your return will come back with a question from the Revenue. It is

always better to anticipate the Revenue, so we recommend that you spell out what the other income relates."

Employees with perks and company directors should wait until they receive P11D forms before completing a return. Many will have not yet received their P11D forms because employers do not need to file them until July 5. Anyone who has made a profit from an employer's share option scheme should check with the Revenue before filling in the form. The notes would have you enter the details as untaxed income but in many cases it should be registered as extra income from employment.

**B**ut if at any stage you do not understand the instructions, ring your own tax office (the number should be included with your tax form), or in the evenings and at weekends call the Revenue helpline on 0845 000 444 or go to a Tax Inquiry Centre — listed under Inland Revenue in telephone directories. The Revenue provides a booklet to help taxpayers to calculate their tax liabilities, and even if you intend to have the Revenue do the calculations, it is worth having your own set against which to check the Revenue's. It has been known to make big mistakes in its tax calculations, which can be costly to taxpayers who do not know how much tax they should pay.

If you seek help, make sure accountants are members of the Chartered Institute of Taxation or the Institute of Chartered Accountants. Other help includes the Tax Team (0800 393 520), with tax services from £75, and the Royal Bank of Scotland's TaxCheck Service from £95.

\*Offer to individuals, not income reinvested from 1.7.86 - 1.4.97. Source: Micropal. Poffler is bid, not income reinvested, source: Micropal. The value of units can go down as well as up and is not guaranteed. Since 1.1.97 it is a trading name of Sun Alliance Unit Trust Management Ltd, registered in England with No. 2146342, registered for CIMA and the Personal Investment Authority. The registered office is 3 Knightsbridge Lane, London SW1X 1AB. For other details, call 0800 393 520.

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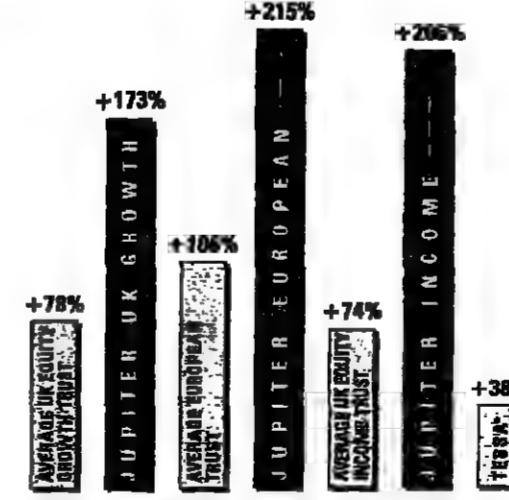
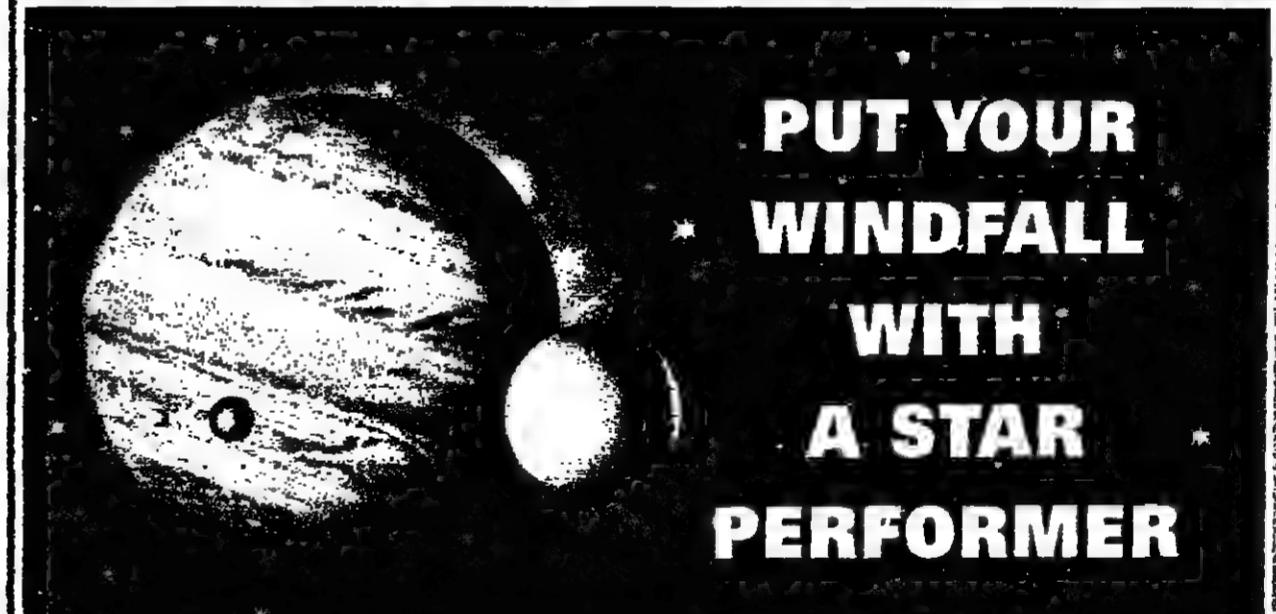
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# Pension charge with sting-in-the-tail feel

**Sara McConnell**  
on why paying  
an insurer to  
buy your annuity  
can seem like  
"the last straw"

**B**y the time they retire most people with personal pensions will quite justifiably feel that they have paid more than enough in charges.

When they set up the schemes large chunks of their investment are likely to be absorbed by the insurer's administration charges and salesmen's commission.

Throughout their working lives, a proportion of each contribution goes straight into the insurer's coffers in ongoing management charges and policy fees.

So it can be the last straw for many people to be told that a further charge will apparently be levied by the insurer for the onerous task of buying an annuity with the accumulated fund on retirement.

Peter Revell, a reader of Weekend Money, writes: "I have just asked for a statement of potential benefits from my policy as I may retire later this year. I attach a copy of their figures.

"What somewhat surprised me was the charge of £514.95 'payable immediately' in connection with 'arrangement and servicing'. Naturally no one from Allied Dunbar mentioned this before. Is this the normal practice on such pension plans with all companies?"

**Weekend Money replies:**  
What Allied Dunbar has sent you is a standard illustration of the benefits you can expect in retirement. It shows how much you will get as a tax-free lump sum and how much pension income you will receive annually, if you buy your annuity (the lump sum investment from which your pension will actually be paid) from Allied Dunbar.

At the bottom of the form, you learn that Allied Dunbar will charge a fee of £514.95 "for arranging and servicing" your plan. This fee, "payable immediately", is said to be "determined by the size of the



Peter Revell's statement of potential benefits included an "immediate" charge of £514.95



investment". In short, Allied Dunbar is proposing to charge £515 for arranging an annuity.

But you do not need to write a cheque for this amount, as it has already been factored into your prospective pension payout. If you accept the quotation, the company will simply help itself to the fee as part of the deal.

Billy Burrows of Annuity Direct, the specialist adviser, points out that the cost has an impact on your pension income as the level of charges affect your pension. Some insurers will give you a better annuity rate than others, which partly reflects their charges and partly their keenness to be in the market.

Salesmen are normally paid

a commission of 1 per cent to set up annuities. In your case this would be about £420, with the rest accounting for Allied Dunbar's expenses. Tony Reardon, Allied Dunbar's pensions development director, says: "People need advice on what benefits they can choose and what guarantees they need."

But you have the right to take your pension fund to another insurer offering a better rate. This is called the open market option. Currently Norwich Union, Canada Life and Equitable Life have some of the best annuity rates on the market.

If you asked Allied Dunbar to transfer your fund to one of these, you would be provided with another quote, which may well promise you a better income in retirement.

## Spot the difference

Company	bid/offer spread	reduction in yield	25yr fund value
Eagle Star Direct	0%	0.50%	£95,100
Equitable Life*	4.50%	0.70%	£93,100
Norwich Union	5%	0.70%	£91,100
Marks & Spencer**	3%	0.80%	£88,500
Scottish Widows	5%	0.90%	£87,500
Legal & General	5%	0.70%	£87,200
Virgin	0%	1.10%	£83,000
Pension Store***	2%	1.18%	£76,225

Source: Company's illustration, single premium of £1,500, 25 years at 9%. \*ELAS bid/offer spread varies with fund choice and cannot be guaranteed. \*\*Marks & Spencer bid/offer spread, \*\*\*Pension Store uses 2% 'joiner' fee.

You could be up to £18,000 better off, if you invest in Eagle Star's special pension offer.

If you make a lump sum pension contribution of £12,500 with Eagle Star Direct, our rock bottom charges\* mean you could be as much as £18,000 better off in retirement than you might have been with one of our competitors.

Which goes to show that when it comes to value for money pensions, Eagle Star is once again leading the way. Call now before the emergency budget - just in case.

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\*Eagle Star's figures are based on special terms available for single contributions of £12,500 or more made before 31/7/97.

This information is based upon Eagle Star's understanding of current law and inland revenue practice (4/8/97) both of which may change in the future.

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BALANCE	GROSS CAR
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£25,000 +	6.25%
£10,000 +	6.05%
£5,000 +	5.75%
£2,500 +	5.20%

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CAR is equivalent to the rate arrived at by taking account of the compounding of interest paid either than once a year. It is based on First National Building Society's interest rate, effective 8.6.97.

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# THE TIMES MONEY INFORMATION SERVICE

## Pet policy includes charity incentive

**O**f the 6.9 million dogs and 7.2 million cats that reside in more than half of all UK households, just one in eight is currently insured. Churchill, the pet insurer, will be donating £1 to the RSPCA for every policy taken out. Its pet insurance offers vets' fees for each course of treatment including hospital care and alternative medicine, third-party liability of up to £2 million for damage or injury caused by your pet and the purchase price or replacement price of your pet up to £350 for lost animals. The standard annual premium is £90 for a pedigree dog and there is no age limit for pets. Call 0121-626 7890.

**■ WOOLWICH** Building Society has announced that its current account customers aged 18 and over have been given a complimentary £50 overdraft facility. Customers who overdraw up to £50 will not be charged, but interest will be charged for unauthorised overdrafts. It will be charged at 29.5 per cent. Credit protection insurance will be given to new eligible overdraft holders.

**■ THE WHICH? Guide to an Active Retirement** unravels the complexities of tax, pensions, insurance and investments. The guide reflects new financial legislation, such as the advent of tax self-assessment, looks at what pension options are available and looks at planning for long-term health care. The book includes a section on working after formal retirement, whether in a new job, setting up a business or joining the voluntary sector. It costs £12.99 and is available from bookshops or by calling Which? Ltd on 0800 252100.

LIZZIE ROSE

### GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS

ANNUAL INCOME			
Rates as at June 5, 1997			
Investment (£)	Company	Standard Rate (%)	
1 Year			
5,000	GE Financial Assur	6.00	
10,000	AIG Life	6.05	
20,000	GE Financial Assur	6.15	
50,000	GE Financial Assur	6.25	
2 Years			
1,000	Hambro Assured	5.30	
10,000	Hambro Assured	6.05	
20,000	Hambro Assured	6.20	
50,000	Hambro Assured	6.25	
3 Years			
1,000	Hambro Assured	5.40	
5,000	ITT London & Ed	6.30	
20,000	GE Financial Assur	6.33	
50,000	GE Financial Assur	6.43	
4 Years			
1,000	Hambro Assured	5.85	
3,000	ITT London & Ed	6.35	
5 Years			
1,000	Hambro Assured	5.80	
3,000	ITT London & Ed	7.00	

Source: Chamberlain de Broil 0171-434 4222. Net rates, income and capital guaranteed. Early surrender. Terms vary. Monthly income may be available.



### SAVERS' BEST BUYS

#### INSTANT ACCESS ACCOUNTS

	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Sainsbury's Bank 0500 405060	Instant Acc	Instant	£1	5.75	Y/y
Nationwide BS 0500 302010	InvestDirect	Postal	£500	6.40	Y/y
Alliance & Leic 0645 228858	First Cis Inst	Postal	£10,000	6.65	Y/y
Stafford Railway BS 01785 223212	First Cis Ret	Postal	£10,000	7.00	Y/y

#### NOTICE ACCOUNTS & BONDS

	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
First National BS 0800 555844	30 Day Notice	30 day p	£25,000	6.80	Y/y
Coventry BS 0345 685222	Postal 50	50 day p	£1,000	6.35	Y/y
Irish Permanent BS 0973321	Extrs Post	60 day p	£3,000	6.50	Y/y
Hanley Economic BS 0800 538811	Postal 90	90 day p	£25,000	7.00	Y/y

#### FIRST TESSAS (TAX FREE)

	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Sun Banking Corp 01438 744505	Fxd+feeder a/c	5 year	£8,575	7.55	F/M/y
Investec Bank (UK) 01721 203 1850	Premier+feeder	5 year	£9,000	7.35	Y/y
Principality BS 01222 344188		5 year	£500	7.15	Y/y
Bradford & Bingley BS 0800 562588		5 year	£500	7.00	Y/y



### CREDIT CARDS BEST BUYS

#### CREDIT CARDS

	Card type	Interest per month	APR%	Fee per annum
RBS Advanta 0800 077770	Visa	0.79%N	9.90%N	N/A
Capital One Bank 0800 869000	Visa	0.79%N	9.90%N	N/A
Co-operative Bank 0800 109000	Advantage Visa	0.87%C	10.90%N	N/A

### PERSONAL LOANS BEST BUYS

#### PERSONAL LOANS

	APR	Monthly payment on £3,000 for 3 yrs with insurance
Northern Rock BS 0345 421421	11.80%H	£112.82
Direct Line 0181 8809966	13.90%A	£112.07
Bank of Scotland BS 0800 805805	13.90%	£116.75
		£101.33

N.B. A = Minimum age 22 years. Holders of comprehensive motor insurance policy or lenders existing customers. B = Withdrawals via Bank Clearing System. C = no interest free period. F = Fixed Rate (all other rates variable). H = Higher rate applies if insurance not arranged. N = introductory rate for a limited period. P = By Post only

\* RATES SHOWN ARE GROSS AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE

PLEASE CHECK RATES BEFORE INVESTING

Source: MoneyFacts, the Monthly Guide to Investment & Mortgage Rates (01865 500 677)



### PIBS

#### FIXED RATE

	Gross coupon	Buying price	Yield	Issue price	Minimum purchase amount
Birmingham Midshires	8.375%	112.86	8.298	100.17	1,000
Bradford & Bingley	11.625%	137.93	8.428	100.13	10,000
Bradford & Bingley	13.000%	154.15	8.433	100.20	1,000
Bristol & West	13.375%	159.14	8.405	100.34	1,000
Britannia	13.000%	154.15	8.433	100.42	1,000
Coventry	12.125%	143.93	8.379	100.75	1,000
First National	11.750%	138.43	8.488	100.25	10,000
Hartlepool	8.750%	120.70	8.207	100.28	50,000
Hartlepool	12.125%	141.81	8.207	100.28	50,000
Hartlepool	13.025%	162.89	8.197	100.00	50,000
Leeds & Holbeck	13.375%	158.58	8.434	100.22	1,000
Leeds & Holbeck	10.750%	128.28	8.354	100.32	1,000
Newcastle	12.625%	149.73	8.432	100.45	1,000
Newcastle	12.625%	151.87	8.313	100.14	1,000
Northumbrian	12.625%	152.68	8.433	100.48	1,000
Northumbrian	12.625%	167.80	8.433	100.75	1,000

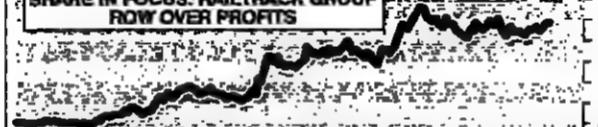
#### FLOATING RATE

	Gross coupon	Buying price	Issue price	Minimum purchase amount
Cheshire (30/09/27/03/09) 04063%	114.00	100.00	1,000	
First Nat (22/03/20/03) 9.12031%	104.00	100.00	1,000	

PIBS = Permanent Interest-bearing shares

Source: ABM AMRO Harts Goss 0171-601 0101

### SHARE IN FOCUS: RAILTRAIL GROUP ROW OVER PROFITS



### LENDER

#### BASE RATES V MORTGAGES



### LENDER

#### BASE RATES V MORTGAGES







## Shares close at best of day

**TRADING PERIOD:** Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

مكتبة من الأصول







## Australians powerless to prevent Thorpe and Hussain seizing high ground

## Clarion call sounded by partners in harmony

MICHAEL HENDERSON



At Edgbaston

For two hours yesterday morning, a small and not terribly distinguished part of a big and not at all nice city was transformed into a land of milk and honey. So superbly did Master Hussain and Master Thorpe bat, more mellifluously even than they had played the previous evening, that one wanted to stand on the nearest rooftop and shout (extremely loudly): "Hurrah!"

It was Sydney Smith, the 18th century parson-wit, who famously described his idea of heaven as "eating de foie gras to the sound of trumpets". For many of his countrymen, watching two Englishmen bat against Australia as this pair did, over four and a bit sessions, evokes almost equally celestial visions. In the view of many spectators last night, not all of them sober, admittedly, Hussain and Thorpe stood only slightly lower than the angels.

Make no mistake, something important has happened at Edgbaston. However much David Lloyd and Michael Atherton may try to play down the significance of England's performance, the meaning of the team's superiority was not lost on the crowd. Weather permitting, England will win this match and, it is clear, they can now take the series. Even three days ago that sort of talk was permissible only by consenting adults behind closed doors.

They will need luck, of course, the kind of luck that Hussain enjoyed when he was 82 and Glenn McGrath hit

him on the front pad in line with off stump, the kind of luck that forces a bowler like Gillespie from the field, and the kind of luck that ensures that edges fly past third slip's lugole and not into his hands. England have been lucky in this match, but, having played from the first ball with such resolve and daring, they have earned their occasional moments of fortune.

Hussain's innings was, in a word, sovereign. For patience, skill, judgment and brilliance of stroke, it will take some beating this summer and, if it is beaten, we shall all be richer for the experience. Thorpe was not inferior. For much of their partnership, he was the more dashing.

In that giddy first hour of the day, as McGrath found a



Warne looks on unhappily as Thorpe and Hussain pile on the agony in their invigorating stand

length better suited to English conditions and made his contest with Hussain a true test. England scored 81 runs! The first session yielded an incredible 135, bringing to mind John Arlott's remark when Walcon and Weeks were pasting England 40 years ago: "This is not cricket. This is civilised murder."

Hussain's sister, Benazir, is a principal dancer with the Royal Ballet and his own balance and movement did not lack distinction. He played the best shot of the first day

when he opened the face of his bat and pushed Shane Warne to the extra-cover boundary. Yesterday, he went from 188 to 200 with three resounding strokes, the second of which, a straight drive essayed after he had waited for the ball, was particularly sweet.

When he reflects on this match next week, next month or sometime in the next millennium, Hussain may not quite believe just how well he batted. He clearly felt that he had a point to prove and, like Andrew Caddick, he responded

to exclusion from the one-day party with a performance underscored by a sense of his worth.

"Thorpe is always positive," he said, "and the right hand-left hand combination obviously helped. We were determined not to lose a wicket when we resumed, because it's the sort of pitch where you can easily lose a couple more. But the crowd really got behind us, and everybody is talking about us nicely for a change."

Hussain's innings was effectively a call to arms on the sonorous trumpet admired by Mr Smith, and if England win this game, he is entitled to blow it again. What else is a trumpet for?

good as this since 1985, when David Gower seemed to bat all summer against Australia. The players are happy as Larry, the spectators are full of joy, and even the newspapers that thought not six months back that our cricket was wretched have amended their line — for the time being.

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## Century by Wagh averts follow-on

BY BARNEY SPENDER

**THE PARKS** (second day of three): Oxford University, with one first-innings wicket in hand, are 138 runs behind Glamorgan

RAIN brought a premature end to play in the Parks yesterday and probably consigned this game to a draw, but the weather did not intervene until after Mark Wagh, the Oxford University captain, had scored a fine 116, his maiden first-class century.

Wagh, who will join Warwickshire after the University match, began the day in more subdued mood than on Thursday evening, when he raced to his 50 off 47 balls. The howling was tighter and he was starved of the strike for long periods. Showing admirable patience, he added just six in the first hour before opening up to reach 98 by lunch.

Five balls after the interval he paddled. Dean Cosker down to long leg and took the two runs that he needed to

complete the first Oxford hundred of the season. It came from 163 balls, with 17 fours.

Applauding at the non-striker's end was Peter Morgan, an uncomplicated right-hander, who set about the bowling during a partnership with Wagh that produced 132 in 30 overs. Morgan twice swatted Darren Thomas for six and had reached 63 when he hit Cosker to mid-off, a dismissal that sparked a collapse from 235 for three to 240 for seven in four overs. Tail-end resistance, however, saw Oxford past the follow-on mark of 273. Although Thomas picked up five for 95, Cosker was the pick of the bowlers.

With Wayne Law nursing his damaged elbow, Duncan Fletcher, the Glamorgan manager, took the field before lunch, but later gave way to Nick Pritch, the Oxford twelfth man, who must be worried about his place at Lord's after taking the catch that ended Wagh's four-hour stay.

## Cork adds to Derbyshire woes

BY RICHARD HOBSON

**CHESTERFIELD** (third day of four): Derbyshire, with all second-innings wickets in hand, are 157 runs ahead of Hampshire

A PAIR of England cricketers from the recent past caused Derbyshire concern yesterday, one of them from within their own ranks. As Robin Smith was compiling one of the more straightforward of his 52 first-class hundreds, Mike Horton, the Derbyshire chairman, announced that the club will conduct an inquiry into the latest episode in the saga of Dominic Cork's injury.

Cork has not played since the end of April and a visit to a specialist last Wednesday revealed that he is suffering from Gilmore's groin, otherwise known as a "sporting hernia". He will be assessed by Gerry Gilmore, the surgeon who has given his name to the specific ailment, next Wednesday. If the diagnosis is confirmed, he will undergo an operation that would effectively rule him out of the

entire Test series against Australia.

Cork's problem does not end there, however. Horton said: "It would appear that he told a member of the press before the club and the club will be taking up the matter internally over the next few days." Disciplinary action remains a possibility, this less than a week since Chris Adams was fined £750 (£250 of which was suspended) after his show of dissent against Australia.

Indeed, as threatening



Smith: commanding

clouds drifted towards Queen's Park in the early evening, it became easy to think that where this ailing county is concerned it never rains, only pours. Bottom of the championship and the Axa Life League before the present round of matches, they desperately require victory in one form or the weekend to restore morale.

They will need to show a marked improvement in their bowling today if they are to take the ten Hampshire wickets that they will require, assuming that Dean Jones, the captain, sets a target this afternoon. Once Hampshire avoided the follow-on target of 374 yesterday, it became a question of just how long John Stephenson would extend the innings.

Eventually, he brought things to a close at tea with the deficit at 101. Derbyshire extended their advantage to 157 before play was abandoned. Just 17 wickets have fallen in the first three days, which puts Derbyshire's task into context. With this in mind, the figures of three for 40 recorded by Paul Aldred consti-

tute a personal success and, having also scored a career-best 83, he can look back on this game with satisfaction.

None of his colleagues generated as much movement and Smith, in particular, appeared determined to fill his boots. In this form, the moments of self-doubt that occasionally fill his mind become inexplicable. Hampshire were within eight of their initial target when he edged Kevin Dean to slip, three balls after reaching 150 in 44 hours. In all, he hit 24 fours and two sixes.

Smith offered the only semi-blank of a chance on Sti when Adams put a hand to an edge, but otherwise he unrolled his signature square cut with brutal regularity and pulled with equal force.

Aldred held a return catch from Kevan James and produced a fine ball that Kendall was good enough to nick to Krikken before lunch. He returned to remove Stephen's leg-before, but, by the time that Aymes was dismissed, the innings had lost any sense of relevance to what is likely to ensue today.

## YESTERDAY'S SCOREBOARDS

## Britannic Assurance county championship

## Derbyshire v Hampshire

**CHESTERFIELD** (third day of four): Derbyshire, with all second-innings wickets in hand, are 157 runs ahead of Hampshire

Derbyshire: First Innings 322 (A. S. Rogers 100, P. Aldred 83, C. J. Adams 76, J. Renshaw 5 for 110)

Second Innings 28

X. J. Barnes not out ..... 28

A. S. Rogers ..... 22

Extras (4, lb, 2) ..... 6

Total (no wkt) ..... 58

BOWLING: Renshaw 5 for 110; Aldred 6-0-64-0.

Hampshire: First Innings 222 (A. S. Rogers 100, P. Aldred 83, C. J. Adams 76, J. Renshaw 5 for 110)

Second Innings 28

J. S. Larrey not out ..... 28

A. S. Rogers ..... 22

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Second Innings 28

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A. S. Rogers ..... 22

Extras (4, lb, 2) ..... 6

Total (no wkt) ..... 58

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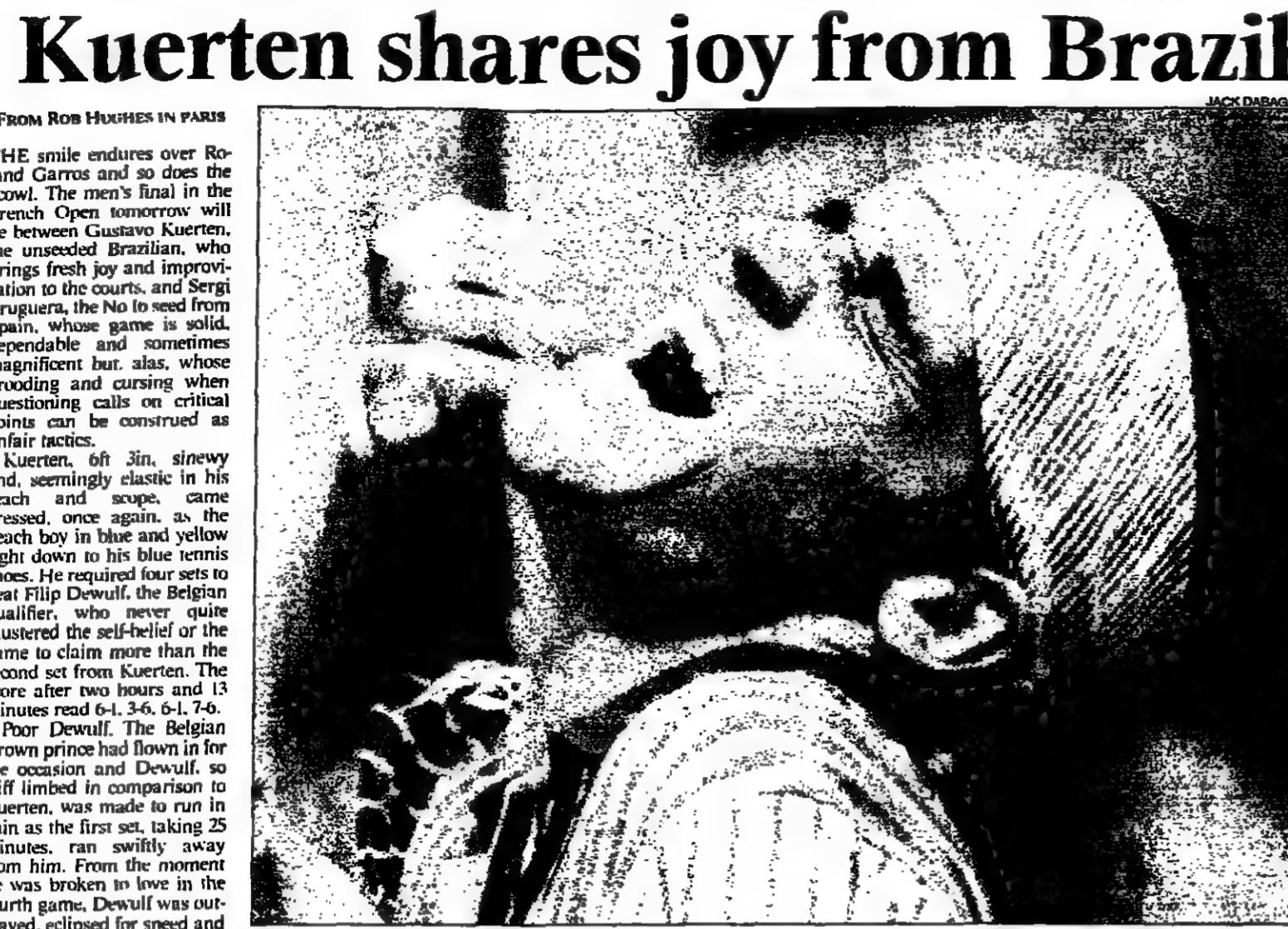
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TENNIS: FORMER CHAMPION FACES UNSEEDED CHALLENGER IN FRENCH OPEN FINAL



FROM ROB HUGHES IN PARIS

THE smile endures over Roland Garros and so does the scowl. The men's final in the French Open tomorrow will be between Gustavo Kuerten, the unseeded Brazilian, who brings fresh joy and improvisation to the courts, and Sergi Bruguera, the No 16 seed from Spain, whose game is solid, dependable and sometimes magnificent but, alas, whose brooding and cursing when questioning calls on critical points can be construed as unfair tactics.

Kuerten, 6ft 3in, sinewy and seemingly elastic in his reach and scope, came dressed, once again, as the beach boy in blue and yellow right down to his blue tennis shoes. He required four sets to beat Filip Dewulf, the Belgian qualifier, who never quite mastered the self-he愈 or the game to claim more than the second set from Kuerten. The score after two hours and 13 minutes read 6-4, 3-6, 6-1, 7-6.

Poor Dewulf. The Belgian Crown prince had flown in for the occasion and Dewulf, so stiff limbed in comparison to Kuerten, was made to run in vain as the first set, taking 25 minutes, ran swiftly away from him. From the moment he was broken to love in the fourth game, Dewulf was outplayed, eclipsed for speed and perception — but at least he has courage.

After enduring a game early in the second set in which Kuerten served four aces, Dewulf stood his ground and solidly, stoically gave his Crown prince cause to applaud. Having won only once in nine games, Dewulf resiliently came back to square the match, one set apiece.

In the next sets, though, Kuerten regained his concentration and he became quite unforgiving in his treatment of the Belgian. The third set lasted 19 minutes and the Brazilian won the last five games. The fourth set became competitive because Dewulf showed courage and Kuerten snatched slightly nervously at his match points. It extended

Kuerten, the unseeded Brazilian, screams with delight after his semi-final victory in Paris yesterday

but did not change the contest, and the man who is the most appealing on the eye of any in this tournament is already assured of doubling his career prize-money, whether he takes the winner's cheque worth £400,000, or the £200,000 for the runner-up. It will not come easily.

Bruguera may squeeze the joy out of tennis, but he has already been champion here twice and is in the groove again. His semi-final against Patrick Rafter, the Australian, pitted the wiles of a true clay-court specialist who waits for the opponent to come in and passes him with Rafter's cavalier attempt to chip and charge and serve and volley

his way through the tournament.

The first set took 53 minutes and featured, sometimes surprisingly, Bruguera at the net and Rafter showing from the back of the court that he has learned to better his groundstrokes, particularly the once non-existent backhand.

Eight games passed without a service break and then came four in succession as the two men fenced for authority. The tie-break was similarly hard-fought. Bruguera had a set point, just as he had at 5-4, but could not take it. Rafter then held on to win the tie-break on the fourteenth point, the first set in five losing contests that

had been taken from the brooding man from Barcelona.

Bruguera, accuracy personified, sometimes whipping winning passing shots off his ankles, turned his forlorn expression into an exclamation of triumph when, within 20 minutes, he took the second set, 6-1. By now Rafter's clothing was transparent through his sweat on an evening in which the temperature rose above 80F. He just could not hold his service — indeed, he lost four service games in succession and Bruguera slowly edged towards victory.

In the fourth set, Rafter's indefatigable will ratiel the Spaniard. Bruguera indulged in swearing at his father and coach, Luis, and calling the umpire down from the chair to validate close calls. It should not intimidate an opponent and, though Rafter missed a succession of overhead shots, it must be assumed that it was guile and placement that beat him and not calculated direction.

Anyway, at 6-6 with Bruguera serving, Rafter had set point; he lost it by netting a relatively easy volley and was taken into a second tie-break. Bruguera scented victory and ran through his opponent's 7-1. Either he or Kuerten will receive the winner's trophy tomorrow from Bjorn Borg. Borg, now there is a clay-court name to conjure with.

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In the fourth set, Rafter's indefatigable will ratiel the Spaniard. Bruguera indulged in swearing at his father and coach, Luis, and calling the umpire down from the chair to validate close calls. It should not intimidate an opponent and, though Rafter missed a succession of overhead shots, it must be assumed that it was guile and placement that beat him and not calculated direction.

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In the next sets, though, Kuerten regained his concentration and he became quite unforgiving in his treatment of the Belgian. The third set lasted 19 minutes and the Brazilian won the last five games. The fourth set became competitive because Dewulf showed courage and Kuerten snatched slightly nervously at his match points. It extended

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The first set took 53 minutes and featured, sometimes surprisingly, Bruguera at the net and Rafter showing from the back of the court that he has learned to better his groundstrokes, particularly the once non-existent backhand.

Eight games passed without a service break and then came four in succession as the two men fenced for authority. The tie-break was similarly hard-fought. Bruguera had a set point, just as he had at 5-4, but could not take it. Rafter then held on to win the tie-break on the fourteenth point, the first set in five losing contests that

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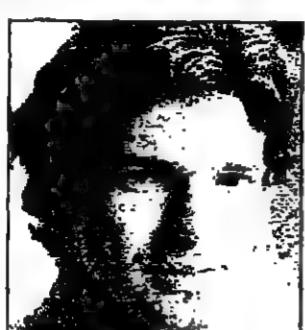
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FOOTBALL: ENGLAND COACH URGES CAUTION AS INJURY TO SCHOLES DISRUPTS PREPARATIONS

## Hoddle forced to revise plans for French test

OLIVER HOLT



In La Baule

IN THE car park by the side of the pitch where the England squad trained yesterday, Alan Shearer stood in front of a couple of photographers holding a baguette as if it were a bat, while Glenn Hoddle knelt behind him in the manner of a wicketkeeper. It was cricket weather here and captain and coach were paying homage to the men of Edgbaston.

Hoddle talked for a while about how excited the players were about the exploits of their counterparts against Australia. He said that his squad had been "doing somersaults" when details of the first morning's play were relayed to them. They had not sent a congratulatory telegram yet, though. "Let's wait for the result first," Hoddle said.

Hoddle and Shearer made trying to keep a sense of perspective their theme of the day, eager to remain realistic amid the euphoria that has swept the camp in the wake of their recent victories over Poland in Katowice and Italy in Nantes, and encouraging signs that the team is beginning to gel at the right time.

The optimism is such that, on the eve of their match against France in the hostile environment of the Stade de la Mosson in Montpellier tonight, England's second in the Tournoi de France, figures were being bandied around which showed that Hoddle's side was on the verge of putting together a run of six successive wins on foreign soil, afeat last achieved by Bobby Robson's team in the middle of the Eighties.

Not since October 1993, against Holland in Rotterdam, have England lost abroad, nor since a month later, against San Marino, have they conceded an away goal. The statistics are compromised by the fact that the vast majority of Terry Venables' games in charge were

played at Wembley, but it is still an impressive record.

Hoddle attributed much of the success to improved defending. "A few eyebrows were raised when I said last year that I felt we had been the poorest defenders in the world in the Premier League, but we have worked on that and it is paying off," he said. "We marked in zones and not man-to-man, but now we are trying to mix it up a bit more."

Most of all, though, he was keen to try to add a postscript of caution to the rave reviews that Paul Scholes, the Manchester United midfield player, has been getting since he made one goal for Ian Wright and scored the other himself on his full debut in the victory over Italy on Wednesday night. Colleagues such as Stuart Pearce have already said that they cannot remember a better debut.

Hoddle said that he had been planning to play Scholes against France, this time in attack with Shearer, but that he had a slight hamstring problem which had forced him to pull out of part of the training session, and that he would make a decision on whether to pick him this

morning. "I'm aware that I was left out after a good international debut," Hoddle said, "and I wanted to play Paul tomorrow. We will just have to wait and see how he is feeling. It is a bit different to my situation anyway, because I was left out of World Cup qualifiers and this is a friendly tournament."

"I need to see now whether he can reproduce what he showed me on Wednesday, because he hit me between the eyes with what he did. I need to find out a little bit more about his temperament and whether he can play like that long term. If he can, then I might think, 'yes, we have got a player on our hands here', but if he can't then it is not a disaster, I do not want to put pressure on the boy."

Shearer, who made no secret of the fact that he was bitterly disappointed to have been left out of the match against Italy, was also the model of circumspection over Scholes. "I was absolutely delighted for him," he said, "because he has had trouble breaking into the Manchester United side, let alone England. If it had not been for Cantona, he would have been a regular."

"He has only got two caps and we must not build him up into a world-beater. I would imagine that the media have been bugging us up at home, but when you are up there, there is only one way to go, so we must not get carried away. I believe we have got the potential to go all the way in the World Cup finals, but it is one thing having potential, another achieving it."

In many ways, the match against a France team that has lost only once in 34 games — and was marginally the better side against Brazil in the 1-1 draw on Tuesday night — may be a better test of England's undoubted pro-

gress than the match against a lacklustre Italy.

France have made eight changes to that team and include Youri Djorkaeff, the highly-rated Internazionale midfield player, who will play behind the front two. Paul Gascoigne is likely to start for

England after recovering from the thigh injury that he sustained in Poland. But Martin Keown has been ruled out with an arm problem.

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Precious chalklands ravaged by rabbits  
country life . 13

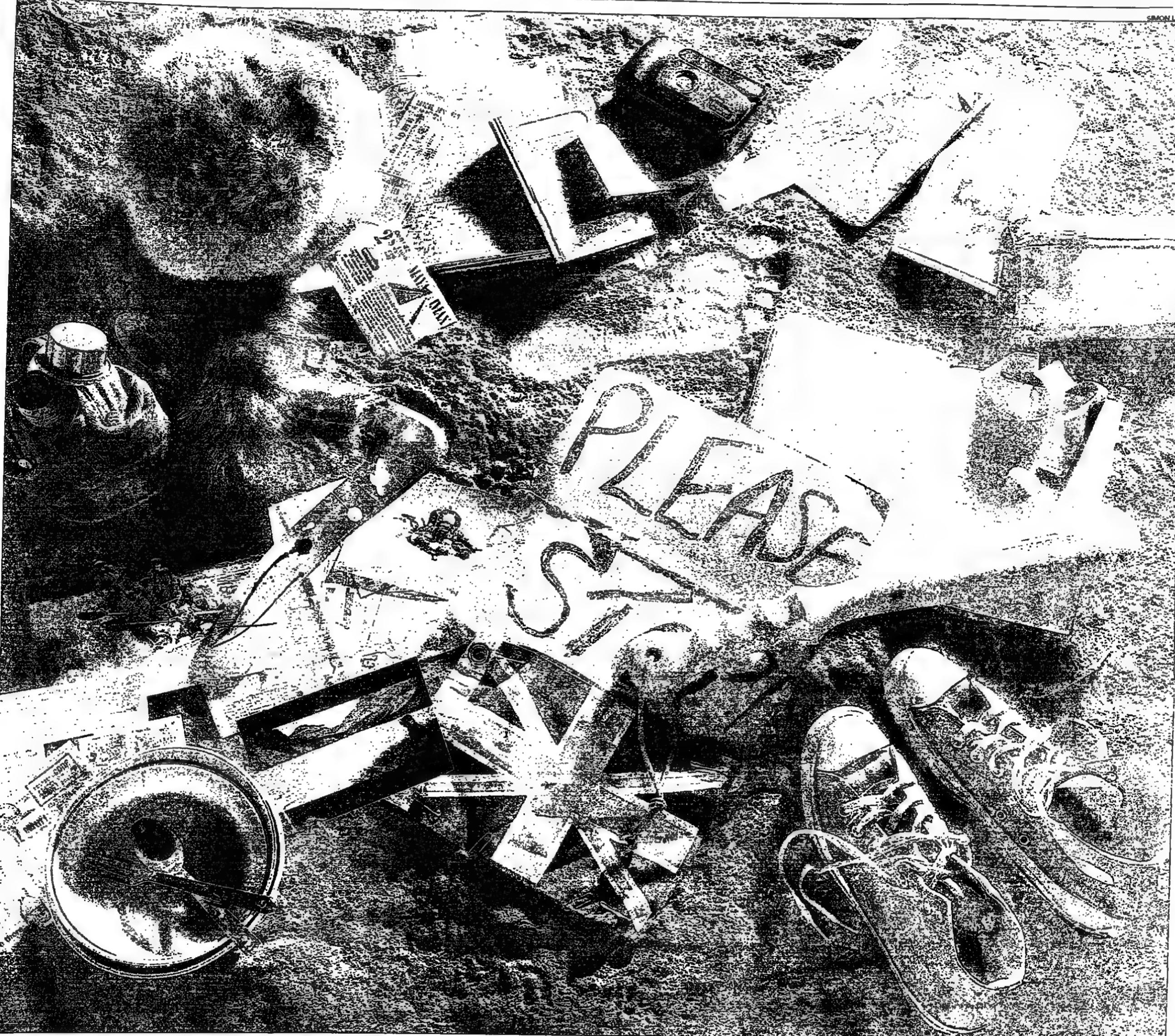
# THE TIMES weekend

SATURDAY JUNE 7 1997

Tragedy of a bolt from the blue  
home life . 15



Why backpack your way around the world? Twenty-two-year-old Tom Griffiths has all the answers



So why take a gap year? More specifically, why take a gap year — between school and university, or university and work — and spend it travelling? I've heard the clichés a thousand times — you're only young once, the world is your oyster, travel broadens the mind, you only have one life — from those who have done it, and those who regret never taking the chance. In the end, there's only one response: well, why not?

In 1993, when I was 18, I went round the world with my school friend Tony. Los Angeles, Hawaii, Fiji, Australia, Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand, then back to Blighty and a place at Manchester University to read Economics. I went because Australia sounded alluring, and because I felt, at just turned 18, too young to start

## Gap year gadabouts

university. I also wanted to break out of the routine of studying and do something with my life. It was a fantastic trip. The furthest I had been before was Portugal, on a family holiday when I was 15. I was hooked. Russia was next. I met a Russian girlfriend at university and spent a month over Christmas at Perm. It was a real eye-opener and afforded a chilling first-hand view of the fall of communism. The following summer I decided to tackle Canada, having met some great Canadians on my round the world trip. Canadians, inci-

dentially, rate with the Fijians as among the friendliest people on earth.

I flew into Vancouver and out of Toronto. Having little money, I challenged myself to hitch-hike solo across Canada. Clocking up just over 5,000 miles, I forgot all about my problems — relationships, exams, the usual stuff — and came back refreshed. The experience spurred me on to get a decent degree and to write my book and get it published. I left university last year with a 2:1, and my book, *Before You Go*, a guide to everything the back-

packer needs to know before they embark — tickets, insurance, safety, cash, solo and female travel — is about to go on sale. I have the self-belief and the self-confidence that I can do anything and succeed at whatever I do. It may sound arrogant, but this is what travel has done for me.

About 200,000 British youngsters take a gap year. Some of them work, but many, as I did, simply take the opportunity to explore the world. In 1996, British Airways and the student travel specialists STA Travel surveyed 10,000 stu-

dents and asked them what they would do if they were given £2,000 to spend. Sixty per cent said that they would go travelling. Cash presents from devoted grandparents for 18th and 21st birthdays have never gone so far.

But don't students ever worry about poverty and loans, and graduate unemployment? Thinking about these things can wait, seems to be the answer. Are we carefree or careless? No wonder so many of us are accused of running

away from reality. Perhaps we are frightened of commitment. But all we are doing is postponing it for a while, because we can, and because it has become acceptable to do so. I am not naive enough to think that I can escape the rat race for ever. Some day I would like to settle down to a job, mortgage, wife, kids and a dog called Gerald. Meanwhile, as a result of my book, I have been offered the chance to present a TV series. And for the record, I slogged my guts out in McDonald's in Ipswich for seven months to pay for my trip to Australia.

Continued on page 2

Before I went to Canada I had three jobs — two in a bar and one servicing trucks.

The concept of a gap year may have its roots in the 18th-century Grand Tour once undertaken by the young, rich and/or noble, but it is the offspring of the middle classes who have turned it into such a phenomenon. Possibly it has been encouraged by the free spirits of the 1960s, once responsible for opening up the hippy trails of India and Morocco, now middle-aged with children of their own. It is tempting to think that they suddenly get hit by nostalgia one morning over their cornflakes, and with the strains of *Sergeant Pepper* in their ears, urge their teenagers to leave the nest and go. Funny how the kids decline the invitation to

SHOPPING . . . . . 23 GARDENING . . . . . 46 PROPERTY . . . . . 79 COUNTRY LIFE . . . . . 11-13 FEATURES . . . . . 14 HOME LIFE . . . . . 15 TRAVEL . . . . . 17-23 GAMES . . . . . 25



## With Good Food, Good Living Is Free.

With Good Food magazine you'll find Good Living free 52 pages of ideas from wedding buffets to designs for children's clothes; from magical mosaics to bright ideas for lampshades.

In this month's 8-page pull-out Food Capitals Guide, we tour Bologna, Modena & Parma, the home of bolognese ragù, balsamic vinegar and Parmesan cheese.

We've a selection of dishes drenched with the warm, ripe flavours of southern Italy, including everything you need for a mouth-watering Sicilian-style buffet party.

You'll find Part three of our Wine Lovers' Challenge; the latest recipes from BBC1's MasterChef '97; and we have planned a bring-your-own Sunday brunch party.

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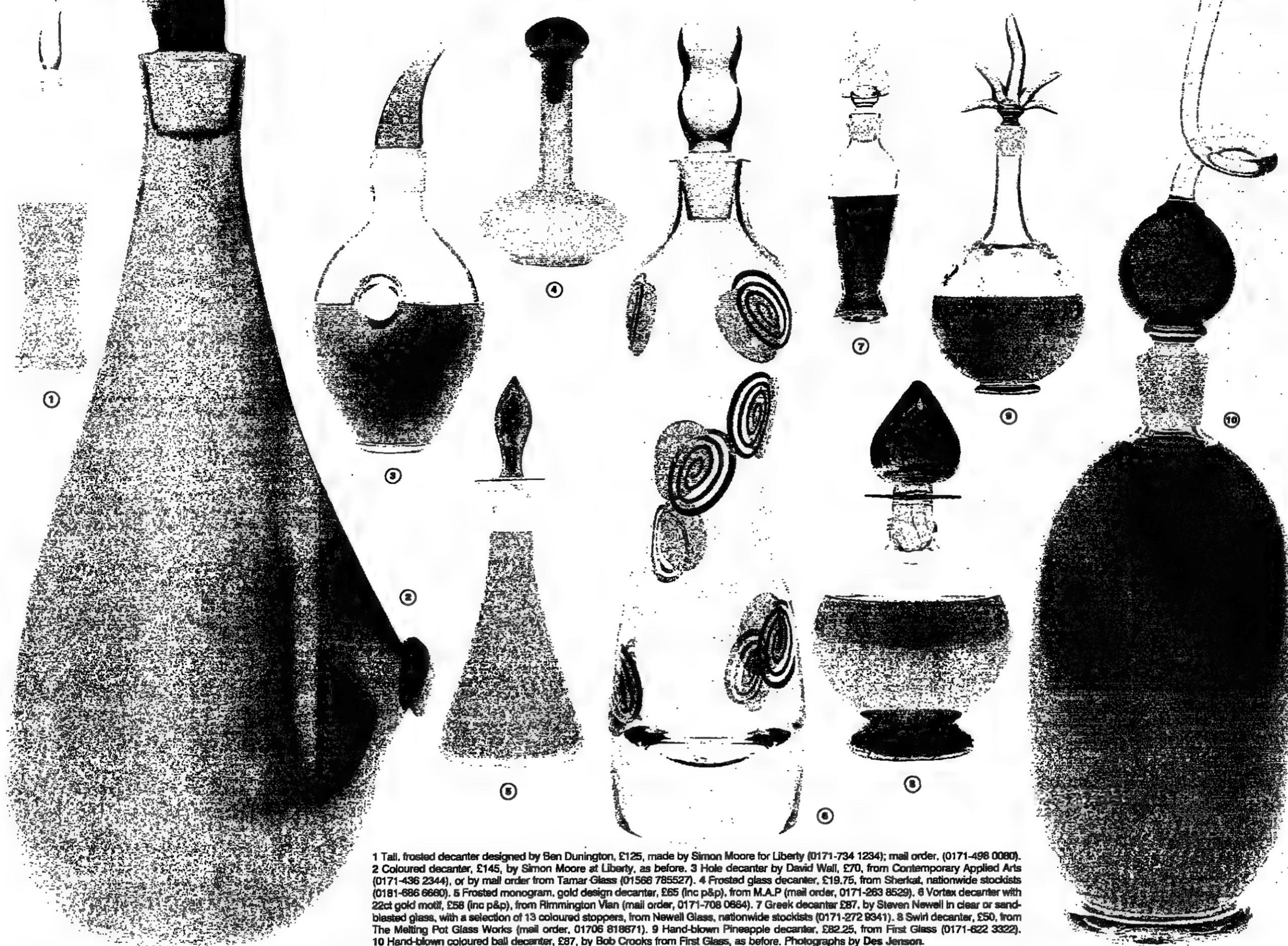
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# Show stoppers



1 Tall, frosted decanter designed by Ben Dunington, £125, made by Simon Moore for Liberty (0171-734 1234); mail order, (0171-498 0080). 2 Coloured decanter, £145, by Simon Moore at Liberty, as before. 3 Hole decanter by David Wall, £70, from Contemporary Applied Arts (0171-436 2344), or by mail order from Tamar Glass (01586 785527). 4 Frosted glass decanter, £19.75, from Sherkat, nationwide stockists (0181-686 6660). 5 Frosted monogram, £25 (inc p&p), from M.A.P. (mail order, 0171-263 8529). 6 Vortex decanter with 22ct gold motif, £58 (inc p&p), from Rimmington Vian (mail order, 0171-708 0864). 7 Greek decanter, £57, by Steven Newell in clear or sand-blasted glass, with a selection of 13 coloured stoppers, from Newell Glass, nationwide stockists (0171-272 0341). 8 Swirl decanter, £50, from The Melting Pot Glass Works (mail order, 01706 818671). 9 Hand-blown Pineapple decanter, £22.25, from First Glass (0171-622 3322). 10 Hand-blown coloured bell decanter, £37, by Bob Crooks from First Glass, as before. Photographs by Des Jenson.

Decanters have moved on from their cut-glass, lead-crystal days, when a weightlifter was required to pour them. Now modern, minimalist designs are available with clear or frosted glass and coloured stoppers, says Caroline Griffiths

Continued from page 1  
to borrow those faded yellow  
psychedelic flares, electing instead  
for a pair of Levis and a  
selection of T-shirts from Next.

It wasn't like that for me. I  
had a lot of opposition from  
my father, a dentist. He would  
have preferred me to go  
straight to university: get a

degree, and then get a job. "I  
don't think that a year off is  
suitable for every pres-  
ident," he says now. "However,  
I have supported two of you  
(my brother Matthew, 24,

works in the City) and it  
certainly produces a self-reliant  
individual. But I do wonder  
whether you will ever stop  
travelling."

My mother was more enthu-  
siastic. "I thought it was  
great that you were going off,"  
she says. "However, I was  
worried that you were a bit too  
young at 18. You came back a  
lot more mature, and I knew  
that you would be able to settle  
down to university life. I never  
really had the chance, so I'm  
glad that you took yours."

"Travel has become more  
accepted, a part of the youth  
culture," says Dawn Howell,  
the promotions co-ordinator at  
STA Travel. "Everyone else is  
doing it, so the attitude is, if  
you're not, why not? Furthermore,  
travel has never been so  
easy and cheap, with more  
places open to tourists than  
ever. Also, the gap year has  
now been recognised by  
employers and universities to  
the point that in the past five years  
the concept has exploded."

Ten years ago STA  
Travel sold 50,000 flights a year; they  
now sell more than  
450,000. Among the early  
popular destinations were  
New York, Sydney and Bangkok.  
These places still rate in  
the top five of STA Travel's  
bestsellers, but young travel-  
lers are going ever further  
every year to satisfy their  
wanderlust. "The South Island  
of New Zealand for all the  
adrenaline sports you can do  
there is popular this year," Ms  
Howell says. "And Guatemala,  
Zanzibar, and even  
Alaska, are becoming more  
and more popular."

The boom has occurred  
because of a combination of  
peer-group pressure, changing  
social attitudes and eco-  
nomic forces. The growth of  
the service sector and the  
subsequent proliferation of  
"McJobs" may not have created  
satisfying long-term  
careers, but it has given students  
the opportunity to work hard  
in the holidays and save even  
harder. And when it comes to  
donning those nylon overalls  
and beaming "Have a nice  
day" or "Enjoy your meal"  
there's nothing like the incentive  
of six months' freedom to  
wander the world.



Tom Griffiths goes bungee-jumping in Cairns, Australia

Companies such as STA  
Campus and Trailfinders have  
cashed in. Knowing that they  
had countless young people  
with money to spend, they  
could negotiate with the  
airlines who, in turn, started to  
offer attractive tickets with the  
possibility of free stops in  
"paradise", such as the islands of  
Hawaii, Fiji and Tahiti on the  
way back from Australia.

It is now easier and cheaper  
to travel than ever before.  
About £700 will buy a student  
six-month ticket that will take  
you from London to Calcutta,  
Singapore, Bangkok, Perth,  
Sydney, Auckland, Fiji, Tahiti,  
Los Angeles and home again.  
Or, if you have £900, perhaps  
you would prefer Bombay,  
Kathmandu, Singapore, Perth,  
Sydney, Auckland, Rarotonga,  
Hawaii, Los Angeles, and  
New York.

Universities appear to be in  
favour of students taking a  
year out before starting their

courses. The number of de-  
ferred entries on accepted  
university places is increasing,  
having risen from 5.4 per cent  
(14,530) in 1994, to 6.7 per cent  
(19,537) in 1996. This trend is  
expected to continue, and these  
figures do not include prospective  
students who delay their  
applications, go away and  
apply when they return.

"Most universities encourage  
and accept deferred entries,  
believing students to be  
more mature and ready in  
spirit to university life,"  
says Jeff Endrey, the executive  
assistant to the chief executive  
of UCAS (Universities and  
Colleges Admissions Service).  
"However, in some subjects,  
like maths, it may be discour-  
aged as tutors do like their  
meat to be fresh."

He advises checking with  
your preferred universities be-  
fore applying (so as not to  
waste a choice), and ensuring  
that you sell yourself in the

being aware of the differences  
between local markets, which  
I see every time I go abroad,"  
she says, "and in my job, it is  
important to cater for the  
tastes of the local market while  
at the same time managing an  
international brand."

Take my cousin Helena, for  
example. She is 28 and a  
product manager for Lancome  
in London. She started travel-  
ling when she was 19 and has  
explored every continent several  
times; even been down the  
Amazon. At 22 she took a job  
working for Unilever in the  
Philippines, and still takes  
every possible opportunity to  
travel. It is significant that her  
travels have not only provided her  
with some fantastic experiences,  
they have informed her  
attitude towards her work.

Competition for graduate  
jobs is enormous. Employers  
can pick and choose. I've been  
through the motions. Some of  
the marketing jobs I have  
applied for, at companies such as  
Unilever and Proctor and  
Gamble, have had 3,000 applicants.  
On CVs, everyone  
"reads" ... "plays sport" and  
we are all "ambitious" and  
"determined".

I think that a sustained  
period of independent travel  
abroad demonstrates character,  
confidence, decision-making  
under pressure, budgeting,  
leadership and teamwork  
skills. Tons of "get up and go"  
to put on the CV. In other  
words.

"At the end of the day it's  
what the young person gets  
out of the gap year that is  
important," says Margaret  
Murray, the head of the CBI  
Learning and Skills Group.  
"The outcome is up to them.  
To employers it can show self-  
confidence, enthusiasm, and  
bags of initiative. Travel is  
therefore encouraged. If, as a  
result of it all you can answer  
the question 'How has it  
benefited you in a way that  
benefits us as well?', then we  
would be interested in interviewing you." This should be  
some comfort to the parents  
who are facing the prospect of  
their son or daughter catching  
the plane to Bumby.

There are those who believe  
that the popularity of travel-  
ling in the gap year is breeding  
a nation of itinerant young  
people who will never settle  
anywhere for long. But look at  
it like this: the world is becoming  
a smaller place every year.

I can only agree.

Marketing is all about

Travel guide, pages 18-19

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JULY 10 1997

• Adventurous checks, tartans and plaids from the days of the Raj are back for summer, says Heath Brown

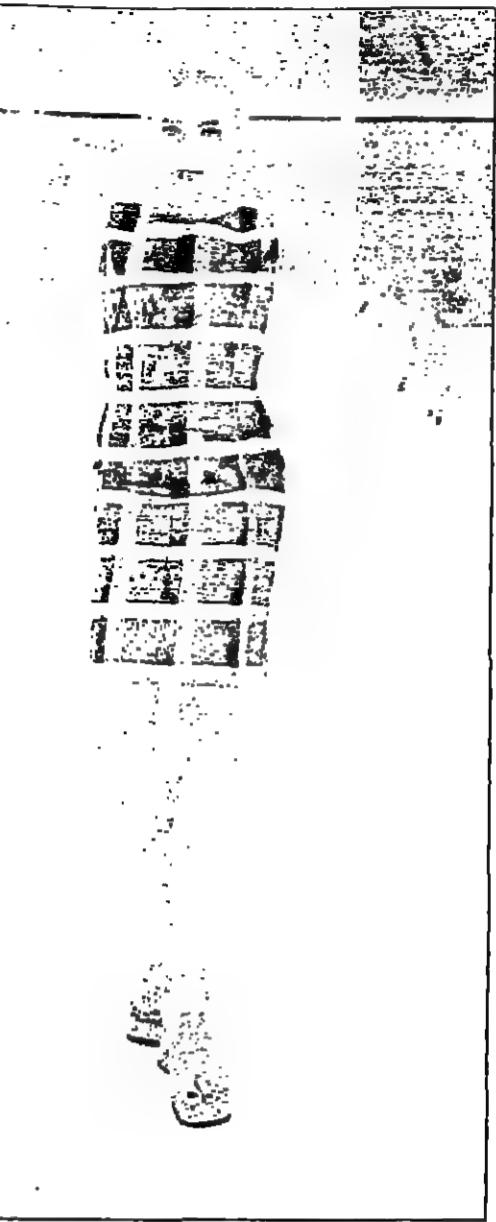
# Go for the hot Madras



ABOVE: White cotton cardigan, £28, Agnes B, 35-36 Floral Street, WC2 (0171-225 3608). Green check trousers, £29.95, Monsoon, branches nationwide (0171-313 3000)



LEFT: Long dress with side split, £229, Paul Costello, 156 Brompton Road, SW3 (0171-589 9484). Blue flat mules, £95.50, Russell & Bromley, 23-24 New Bond Street, W1 (0171-629 6903)



ABOVE: Lime, blue and white check shift dress, £25, Dorothy Perkins, selected branches (0171-291 2604). Lime wedges, £25, Beris, 36 South Molton Street, London W1, and selected department stores nationwide (0171-935 2002)

LEFT: Red, blue and yellow Madras check shell top, £24.95, Monsoon, branches nationwide (0171-313 3000). Linen flat-front trousers, £62.99, Hobbs branches nationwide (0171-449 2000)

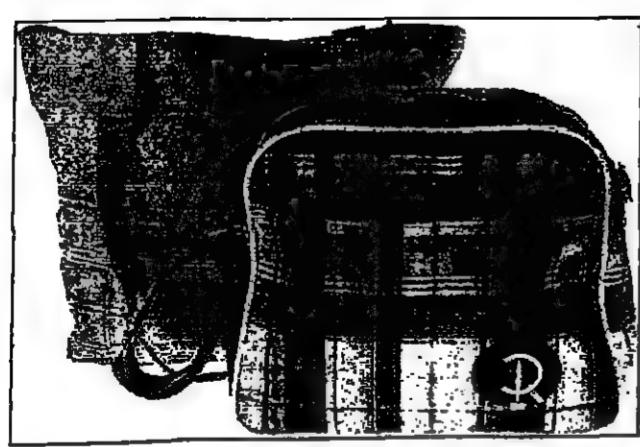
Photographs by Richard Burns  
Hair and make-up by Sally Kvalheim  
for Jo Hansford (0171-495 7774)  
Styling by Amandip Uppal

Checks, tartans and plaids have been in fashion in some form or another since the days of the Raj. At that time, bright versions of tartan were adapted to Hindu sensibilities and became known as Madras checks. Today these exotic colourways look

adventurous without being garish. Sadly, some people still associate traditional plaid with the Women's Institute or Miss Jean Brodie. Yet a simple but bright Madras summerdress will pep up your image at work, or a pair of thin cotton trousers worn with a white cotton

cardigan or T-shirt looks good for play, as does a check bikini (from Morgan, Next and River Island) peeking out from a plain colour beach-shirt dress. A complete Madras outfit can look dramatic, with the added benefit of disguising those lumps and bumps

far better than many other fabrics. Accessories, such as small box bags or simple holdalls in Madras checks, will liven up your wardrobe for holiday or home. As for shoes, look out for vivid wooden-soled mules, cloth-strap sandals, espadrilles and flip-flops.



Madras check rucksack, £30, by Red or Dead (0114-273 7827). Madras check beach bag, £10, by Etam (0171-494 7732)



Orange wedge mules with buckle, £29.95, by Chelsea Cobbler (0171-935 2002)



Madras check platform sandal, £29, by Red or Dead (0114-273 7827)

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Magimix introduce the new 3100. This compact workhorse combines brilliant new looks with improved design. It works better and is even easier to use. New features include easy clean, dishwasher safe bowl in white crystal; new easy fit lid; a new simpler to use mini processor ideal for small quantities and new accessories including a new dough blade and a geared egg whisk.

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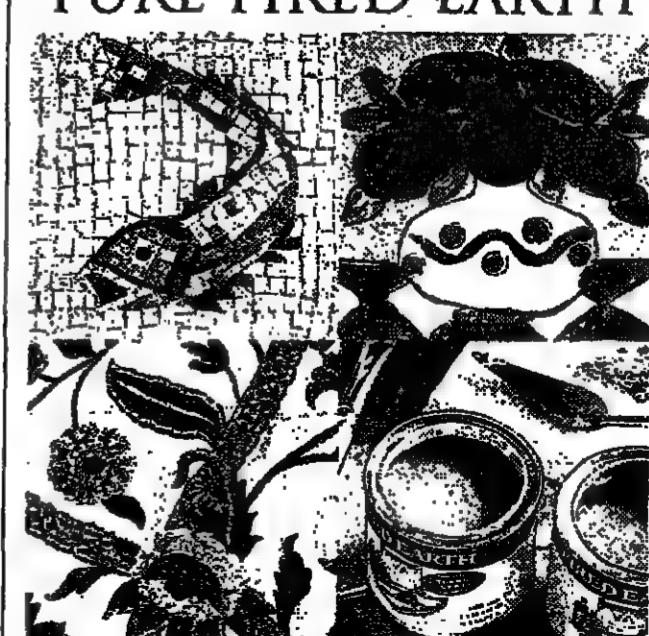
## THREE OF A KIND

SUZI WONG Chinese damask is big news this summer, and bags are no exception. Here are three of the best around. H.B.



BACK: Floral purse, £25, by Lulu Guinness for Debenhams, (0171-408 4444). MIDDLE: Dragon print bag, £15, Warehouse, selected branches nationwide (0171-278 3491). FRONT: Damask bag, £25, Audrey Ang, 4 Brewer Street, W1 (mail order 0171-437 1259)

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## GARDEN ANSWERS

STEPHEN ANDERTON  
replies to readers' letters

**Q** How do I prune my *Hydrangea quercifolia*? It has become very leggy, and there are no low shoots to cut down to. Flowers are not important to me — it is the leaves I like. — Mrs N. Manning, Uckfield, East Sussex.

**A** *Hydrangea quercifolia* is not at all like the big mob-cap hortensia hydrangeas. *Quercifolia* means "oak-leaved" and, indeed, it has leaves sometimes up to a foot long, with a wavy indented edge like an oak. Autumn colour can be good. Its twigs are thin and dark and rough, and it has none of the succulence of the hortensias. Nor does it have their vigorous root, and young plants often need a cane for a year or two to stop them rocking until they are established. It is hardy enough, but it needs hot summers to make it so. If necessary, it can be pruned low to force out low shoots from old wood, but it is much less willing than the hortensias. It requires the encouragement of a good nutritious mulch to help it. My preference is to thin out the spindly growths and to shorten it back and to feed it first. It is not too late to do it this year. If that fails, then cut lower next April/May, and feed and mulch again.

**Q** I bury vegetable peelings, tea leaves, and coffee grounds in my tiny garden. It all seems to disappear, so I assume the worms like it. But does it do the flowers and roses any good? Could it encourage trouble? — Mrs V. Hodges, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.

**A** You carry on. In small quantities, it is only like putting on a bit of green manure. It will not have a spectacular effect on the quality of your garden plants, but it will keep the soil alive, which is a great benefit to them. So long as you bury small amounts and do not make pockets of rotting matter hot enough to damage roots, all will be well. In the past, of course, people used to empty the cold tea dregs on to the plants roots.

**Q** My 40 year-old streamside weeping willow is sickly. Only the lower branches now weep, and we have removed a lot of dead branches. The leaves are often spotty with

anthracnose disease, but it is far too large to spray. Is there any feed I can give it, or an effective spray for just the lower branches? — Mrs M. Romancz, Weymouth, Dorset.

**A** Anthracnose is a fungal disease, a canker, which curls the leaves and sometimes causes them to drop prematurely. Trees can look a mess, but rarely die of it, even if they carry a lot of dead twigs. There is no point spraying the lower branches, because spores will fall and splash down from above all the time, and spraying a few low branches will not cure the whole tree. I suspect the tree may have more serious problems than anthracnose, so be thinking about replacement. The Peking weeping willow, *Salix babylonica* var. *pekinensis* 'Pendula' is said to be immune to anthracnose.

**Q** Last September I was persuaded to have felled an old multi-stemmed rowan in an open corner of my garden. The stump is 24in across and close to two walls. I would like to grow something tallish there again, but the soil is poor clay. Should I make a raised bed over the stump? — Mrs H.E. Drew, Paignton, Devon.

**A** The best plan is to take the stump removed. Failing that, you might plant a tree, or a trio of trees, to the sides of the stump. Birch would not mind the impoverished soil, nor would laburnum or one of the exotic thorns, such as *Crataegus laevigata*. How about a trio of *Aralia elata*, a gaunt, stansque 8ft shrub with huge pinnate leaves and spiny stems? If you want something smaller, philadelphus or weigela would stand the poor soil too. So would the yellow Mount Ema broom, *Genista aetnensis*. Perhaps, until the stump has rotted, you could erect a tripod and grow honeysuckle on it, with the large-leaved vine, *Vitis coignardiae*.

**● Readers should write to:**  
Garden Answers, Weekend,  
The Times, 1 Pennington  
Street, London E1 9TN. We  
regret that it may not be  
possible to deal with every  
request. Advice is offered  
without legal responsibility.  
The Times also regrets that any  
enclosures cannot be returned.

## Swinging way to take life easy

## GARDENER'S UPDATE



JANE OWEN

**A** A FRIEND slung a hammock between a tree and a telegraph pole. The pole fell on her while she was in the hammock and injured her. She would have done better with the Neptune Classic hammock that I assembled in five minutes. Huge corkscrews tether ropes into the ground and these are attached to simple wooden supports. The canvas hammock swings between the supports, and very comfortable it is too. The Neptune Classic costs £34.95, plus £5.95 p&p, by mail order. For more information, contact Neptune Classics, Sevington Farm, Chippenham, Wiltshire SN14 7LD (01249 783252).

## Bubbly blooms

TUESDAY evening at the Hampton Court Palace Flower Show is a magical time: exhibits and display gardens are at their peak, and the public have yet to be allowed into the showground.

Get a gala ticket for July 8 and you can have a private view of one of the largest gardening shows on earth. Apart from an untrammelled tour of pavilions full of plants and gardening accessories, and the show gardens, gala-ticket holders can picnic beside Long Water, be serenaded by live music and, at the end of the evening, watch a fireworks display.

If you take the train from London, you'll be able to drink half a bottle of champagne, which is included in the price of the garden party ticket, £45. Alternatively, you could pay £200 for a three-course, black-tie dinner, including wine and liqueurs and a champagne reception.

Proceeds of the evening go to the charity Childline, which supports children and young people in trouble or danger, and to the conservation and research work of the Royal Horticultural Society. For more details of the gala evening, call 01534 500777.

## Rosy view

LOVERS of roses can have a heady five days in Cambridge at the 7th International Heritage Rose Conference organised by the Royal National Rose Society. For £520, which

## Sitting pretty

ANOTHER swinging way to celebrate summer is with the Pepe range of wooden swinging chairs. There are a range of styles and sizes, from two to three-seaters. What marks them out from the awesome range of garden furniture available today is that the seats are truly comfortable. Pepe Garden Furniture, Burhill, Buckland, near Broadway, Worcestershire WR12 7LY (01386 833842).

## Floral isle

JERSEY Floral Festival runs from July 12-19 and includes walks, talks and demonstrations, led by gardening celebrities including Nigel Colborn, who often writes for *The Times* Weekend. For details of the festival call 01534 500777.

## Organic days

EUROPE's largest organisation dealing with organic gardening, the Henry Doubleday Association, is opening some of its specialist gardens to the public over two weekends. Most are private gardens to which the public normally has no access. The weekends are on June 21-22



Two children having a swinging time testing the Neptune Classic hammock, which costs £34.95 (mail order £40.90)

and August 2-3. For a free Organic Gardens Open Directory, write to Sally Furness, HDRA, Ryton Organic Gardens, Ryton on Dunsmore, Coventry CV8 3LG, enclosing an A5 SAE.

from most garden centres with aquatic sections, or phone 01922 743 585.

## B&amp;B guide

A DIRECTORY of country bed and breakfast places with pretty gardens is available from BBGL, Handyway Farm, Sibford, Banbury, Oxfordshire OX15 5AE. Please enclose a 22cm x 11cm envelope and four first-class stamps.

## Pond life

THE CURRENT hot weather will have done little to stop the gradual build-up of pond algae. One of the latest treatments on the market is called Ecotreat. It is a dried bacteria which competes with algae for nutrients, thus depriving the algae of its food source. A 250g pack, which treats up to 2,000l, costs £6.50.

cent. hard-wearing trellis has to be custom made — most of the stuff in garden centres last only a few years before it buckles. Anthony de Grey makes his trellis into conventional garden partitions but also uses it to make charming, airy pavilions and gazebos. Contact him at 77A North Street, London SW4 0HQ (0171-736 8866).

## Cottagey

LATEST filip for our balance of payments comes from the Cottage Garden Society, which has a dedicated following in Japan of all places. The society aims to advise anybody

who wants to be a cottage gardener. More information from the Cottage Garden Society, Hursfield House, 244 Edleston Road, Crewe, Cheshire, CW2 7EJ (01270 250776).

## End result

THE VARNISH Cuprinol dries quickly and makes a water-repellent surface which resists algae growth. It's great for garden furniture and trellises. Now it comes in some new shades, including a pretty blue called Forget-me-not. It costs £8.99 a litre and is available from DIY stores. For details of your nearest stockist, call 01373 465151.

## FIND OF THE MONTH

I HAVE a lamb wandering in my garden. Not yet weaned, she has yet to start on my plants. When she does I will erect a Champ Scarecrow, which squirts unwanted intruders with water using a jet triggered by a heat, movement and light sensor, which works day or night. Running on two nine-volt batteries, it will usually fire 1,000 times before the batteries have to be replaced. The jet reaches 35ft over a 50-degree sweep on either side of the target, and uses only two cups of water per firing. It is, however, expensive at £119.95, plus £3.50 p&p, excluding batteries. Details on freephone 0800 515608.



## PRODUCT OF THE MONTH

I USE an old ball of string and two sticks at either end of the vegetable row to line up my plants. Grandad gardeners do the job properly with line and reel: two heavy spears to stick in the soil and a reel of waxed twine. Normally these cost £17.95, but reader of *The Times* offered these at £16.95 each. A charge of £4.50 is made for packing and postage because the line and reel weighs 2 kilos (4.4lb). Order (or ask for a free catalogue) from Shore Hall Garden Designs (01799 580225), which will be exhibiting this and other products at the Hampton Court Palace Flower Show next month.



## PLANT OF THE MONTH

**MACLEAYA CORDATA**, plume poppies these handsome, herbaceous perennials from China which grow 5ft-8ft tall are foliage plants that will take over your garden, given a rich clay soil. They also give a wonderful jungly feel to a small area, or make a good backdrop for colourful plants. The grey-green, palmately nerved and lobed leaves reach as much as a foot across and, in late summer, plumes of petalless flowers appear above the foliage. Nurseries sell them, but, if a friend grows them, ask for a rhizome: this will soon take off in any rich, moist soil and will thrive in sun or shade.

## The dovecote that turned into a house

■ Hedges Barn, Shipton Moyne, Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire (01666 880202).

About two miles south of Tetbury, via A433. Open April to mid-Aug. Mon, Tues and Fri, 2.30pm and July 6 for the National Gardens Scheme. £2.50, children free.

These have been many adventurous conversions of stables into houses during the 20th century, but few houses can claim to have started life 400 years ago as a dovecote. Conversion and garden creation were carried out during the years before and after the Second World War. The late Charles Hornby and his wife Amanda, the present owner, grafted inspired planting on to his grandmother's well-structured garden "bones" of walls, clipped yew and now mature trees. This reaches a heady climax in June with a profusion of roses merging with refreshingly untrammeled shrubs and herbaceous plants. With a water garden a satisfying balance between the delightful house, the garden and the surrounding Cotswold countryside, Hedges Barn answers many

people's ideal imaginary picture of a British country garden.

■ Tomorrow, two other gardens in Tetbury will open for the National Gardens Scheme, both from 2.30pm. with a combined admission of £2.50. They are the Chipping Croft and the Old Stables (follow signs), both good examples of how attractive town houses seem to inspire interesting gardens. Enthusiasts will enjoy the potager at the Chipping Croft and the collection of bonsai at the Old Stables.

■ East Riddlesden Hall, Keighley, West Yorkshire (01535 607075). North of A650, one mile northeast of Keighley. Open Sat-Wed to Nov 2. 1.30pm; also Thurs in July and Aug. noon-5pm. £3, children £1.50.

National Trust gardens, like NT houses, divide into a range of leading players, including a selection of international stars, and more modest supporting acts. East Riddlesden Hall belongs to the latter group, but in no way detracts from the interest of a visit. It is good to see a property full of history being preserved in one of the most extensive urban settings Britain can offer. The old monastic stew-pond — one of the first things you see — comes as a surprise, as does the superb

bar. The walled garden, renewed by the Trust during the 1970s, is reached through the 17th-century manor house. Box hedges and avenues of fruit trees and acacias divide lawns, a cheerful mixture of perennials, climbers and an intriguing array of herbs.

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## OPEN THIS WEEKEND

people's ideal imaginary picture of a British country garden.

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# Jacob's Ladder leads to success

Jane Owen meets an amazing woman who has found fame growing the National Collection of Polemoniums

You might think that a single mother of two holding down a job as a nurse would have little time for other activities, but in between her other commitments Dianne Allison has assembled the National Collection of Polemonium (commonly known as Jacob's Ladder) at her semi-detached home on an estate near Consett, County Durham.

Ms Allison is now probably one of the world authorities on the plant, which was much neglected until she took up the cause, completely by chance.

The latest RHS A-Z Encyclopedia of Garden Plants lists polemoniums as "a genus of about 25 species". Ms Allison has 68 species, sub-species and cultivars — about five of each packed into her small garden and up the walls of her house. "If I get into something I do it in a big way," she says with a glorious understatement.

Ms Allison caught the gardening bug when she spent a lot of time after school in her grandparents' cottage garden, and many of the terracotta pots which fill her garden were handed down to her. When she was 18 she "started to do the good life thing before anybody had heard of it" — growing organic herbs and vegetables. And when her two sons were babies, "while some might have read Mills and Boon I read botany books".

To make her herb bed look prettier she planted it with a few other plants she happened to see at the herb nursery. It was pure chance that they included a polemonium.

"When I bought my first one I was told it would be blue but it turned out white. I wanted some colour for my pot-pourri so I bought another, and that was white, too. When I ended up with five white ones, I realised how bad the labelling of these plants was," she says, echoing a common cry from National Collection holders. "I was already a member of the

## GROWING TIPS



P. 'Lambrook Mauve'

Sow polemonium seeds in late summer or early autumn. A heavy clay soil is best; use plenty of manure.

■ They will grow in sun, if the soil is moist, or in dry shade, but somewhere between the two is best.

■ Most will grow well from shoots, which appear at any time of year in leaf axises. Treat the shoots as you would cuttings, plant them in 50:50 sterile sand and John Innes No 2 in an open cold frame.

■ The plants are remarkably pest and disease-resistant but, particularly in the south, they will develop mildew if their roots are allowed to dry.



P. 'Elloworthy Amethyst'

NCCPG (National Council for the Conservation of Plants and Gardens) and so I rang Graham Patterson, the council's plant conservation officer, to ask him the name of the holder of the national collection. He told me there wasn't one.

asked me how many plants I had, and when I told him 15 he said I probably had more than anybody else." So the first National Collection of polemoniums was born.

Most of Ms Allison's polemoniums are planted directly into the ground of her garden, which measures about 13ft by 10ft at the front and 13ft by 13ft at the back, with a 3ft strip along the side. Alpine species sit prettily in pots and troughs.

"Polemoniums will grow almost anywhere but they are good in shade, even deep shade — and it makes my blood boil that whenever anybody writes about shade-loving plants they never mention polemoniums: just the same tired old list over and over again," Ms Allison says.

Polemoniums are satisfying plants — plumes of ladder-shaped leaves making clumps speckled with white, lilac, blue, mauve or even pink, with bell or saucer-shaped flowers.

The favourite polemonium in Ms Allison's collection is "whichever one I happen to be looking at at the time", but she has a soft spot for 'Lambrook Mauve', which grows where few other plants would survive in deep shade under a climbing rose against a north-facing border. It forms large clumps and, though in theory it should flower in late spring and early summer, it flowers for eight months a year. A 'Mauve' belonging to a friend flowers throughout the year.

'Lambrook Mauve' came originally from Margery Fish's garden at Lambrook Manor in Somerset. Ms Allison read about the plant but could not find one: nurseries she visited were unwittingly selling other varieties incorrectly labelled 'Lambrook Mauve'. Then one of Ms Allison's friends gave her an unidentified plant from her mother's garden. It became known as 'Margaret's mother



Dianne Allison, and her son Damien, with part of her National Collection of Polemoniums

er's plant" until Ms Allison's research revealed it to be the elusive 'Lambrook Mauve', probably given by Mrs Fish to Margaret's mother.

Thanks to Ms Allison's painstaking work the 'Lambrook Mauve' plants on sale

in this country are now usually the real McCoy — and when nurseries are not certain they check with Ms Allison.

Her mission to get the labelling right has taken her to the Royal Botanic Garden at Edinburgh, and triggered

correspondence with botanists and herbariums worldwide. "I've always enjoyed a challenge," she says. "It's the detective thing. Following a lead through is so satisfying."

Now many leading growers visit Ms Allison to check that



The Polemonium sits well in a summer border

their plants are correctly labelled and to show her any polemoniums they reckon are new. One large nursery checked *P. 'Brise d'Anjou'* to make sure it was a worthwhile plant before starting a big propagation programme.

During her research she came across a description of the plant *linnaeum* as a white form of the usually blue *P. repans*. But none of the 20 *P. repans* she inspected were anything like the dried specimen she had examined at Edinburgh. She finally found it in a herb nursery in Northumberland — at the same moment that she was sent a message by contacts in America.

The white form of *P. repans*, 'Virginia White', is difficult to grow from seed, and is being micropropagated by Lambrook Plants. It will probably be launched next year.

Ms Allison lists her other triumphs as tracking down the large, pink-flowered *P. carnatum*, which reaches about 16in tall and flowers from May to August, and a pure pink-flowered form of *P. pulcherrimum*, about 6in tall and flowering from April to June.

All the more unusual flowers she grows she distributes

to nurseries nationwide — a list is included in her booklet, see below — to friends, or as plant swaps to ensure the bulk needed for the plant's long-term survival. "I can propagate only about 12 a year myself," she explains.

As if all this wasn't enough, to get to grips with the finer points of molecular biology Ms Allison studied for a botany degree at Newcastle University. So when, last summer, the NCCPG asked her to exhibit at the Hampton Court Flower show she had to refuse because of her degree work. This summer, having completed her degree she will be there.

Now the woman who spends her holidays on moors searching for native species of polemoniums is trying to raise money to travel to America for a plant-hunting tour.

For a copy of the booklet 'Polemoniums', by Dianne Allison, send a cheque for £2 to Ms Allison at 10 The Chesters, Etcheseter, Co Durham DH8 0PB. Her collection can be viewed by appointment only; call 01207 569425.

The National Council for the Conservation of Plants and Gardens (NCCPG), The Pines, RHS Gardens Wisley, Woking, Surrey GU23 6QH (0833 224234).

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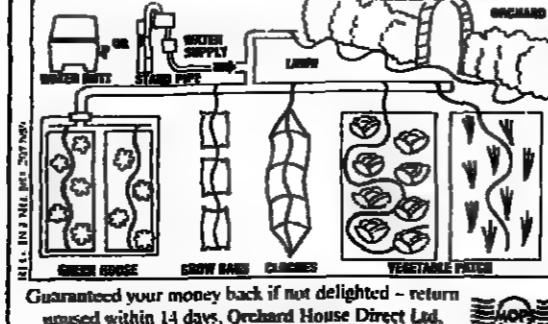
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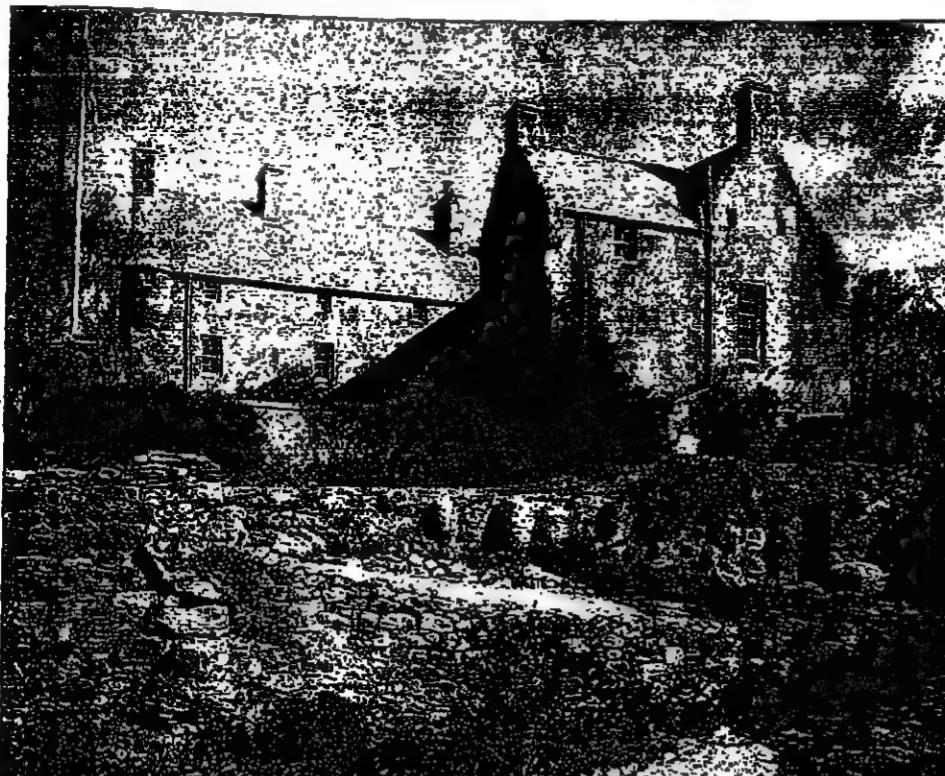
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Muchalls has no moat or creaking staircases, just a warm and cosy feeling and well proportioned rooms



Neither creepy nor draughty, the ten-bedroom Muchalls Castle has a homely air



The Great Hall is 34ft by 19ft, with an ornate plaster ceiling boasting gaudy coats of arms, an enormous fireplace and a walk-in drinks cupboard

## A castle to call home

**T**here is much truth in the adage, "An Englishman's home is his castle", but would the reverse be true? Can an Englishman's castle be his home? The notion of a "homely castle" is almost an oxymoron. Castles are traditionally too cold, too big, too draughty and too expensive to maintain to lend themselves to the intimacy that homes require. Those who inhabit castles often live in the kitchen and a few surrounding rooms while the rest of the building is neglected. In his *Diaries*, Alan Clark moans more about his castle, Saltwood, than the pressures of politics.

Muchalls Castle, near Aberdeen, is that rarity, the homely castle. It has neither creaking staircases and scary corridors, nor vast rooms with sub-zero microclimates. However, Muchalls, which dates from the 17th century, also lacks the more usual attributes. It has no moats,

battlements or towers from which Rapunzel can let down her locks.

"I think of Muchalls as a home," says Glenda Cormack, the owner. She has lived there for six years, enjoying the fine views of the Kincardineshire countryside and the North Sea. Mrs Cormack takes in paying guests and, such is the popularity of the castle, it has turned into a full-time job. She plans to buy an even bigger house to run as a business. But wouldn't that be a burden? "Not at all!" she scoffs. "I want to live my life in reverse."

Muchalls does feel more like an upmarket guesthouse than a home. Fire regulations have resulted in an unnatural amount of doors and the occasional green exit sign. "All these can be easily removed," says Mrs Cormack. "We made sure that we didn't radically alter the structure."

What makes Muchalls homely is the size of the rooms. The largest is the splendid

Great Hall, 34ft by 19ft. An ornate plaster ceiling boasts gaudy coats of arms and a fireplace big enough to park a car. To its right is a walk-in drinks cupboard to satisfy even the biggest whisky drinker.

But the rest of the many

rooms are not much bigger than you would find in a large suburban detached house. The drawing-room is 22ft by 16ft and pretty. The feel is certainly feminine, despite the heraldic ceiling, and it has that kind of yellow warmth that makes it ideal for snuggling up in.

**L**eading off it is the smaller study which, according to Mrs Cormack, "is a man's room". Panelled walls and heraldry give it the appearance of St James's elegance.

Yet it is the bedrooms that will sell Muchalls. The ten are decorated in individual styles. The most attractive is the "honeymoon suite", which is light and romantic with its two

turreted alcoves, from whose

windows you could let down your hair. Above the bed is a canopy that cascades down from a fabric-covered, spokeless bicycle wheel.

Mrs Cormack is a great scavenger. Many pieces of furniture in Muchalls have been snapped up for a song and handsomely restored. Unfortunately for any buyer, she is taking it all with her.

Surprisingly, Muchalls has little land for a house of its stature — a mere five acres. What there is has been well maintained and imaginatively designed. The garden is on different levels, and one of the lawns would make the perfect croquet pitch, surely compulsory for a house like this.

There are the remains of the

old castle walls, as well as a rented cottage and stable block with planning permission to be turned into flats. They are tucked away so that renting them out would not mean an invasion of privacy.

But, no matter how homely Muchalls is, it is not surprising to find that life in the castle revolves around the kitchen. Next door is what is described as the office but what many would call the "flop-room". With a low ceiling and a view on to the courtyard, it is where a family would spend most of their time, lounging around the television with their feet on the dogs while the wind howls around the turrets.

**GUY WALTERS**

• Agent: Savills 01356 622187.

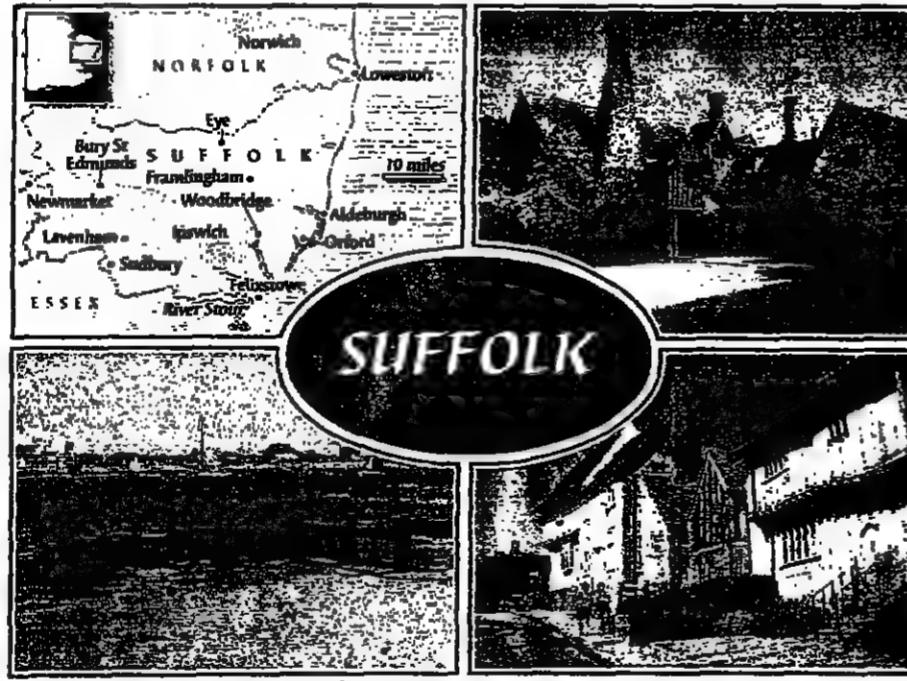


The spacious dining room at Muchalls Castle

### HOUSE OF THE WEEK

- **Muchalls Castle** By Stonehaven, Aberdeen, Kincardineshire
- **Price:** Offers over £50,000
- **Shopping:** Aberdeen is ten miles away, and its Union Street has nearly every high-street shop one would need. There are also out-of-town supermarkets and DIY centres. The nearest town, Stonehaven, is a coastal resort, which although slightly twee, is good for lighter shopping. It also has a fine fish restaurant on the harbour.
- **Recreation:** For fisherman, the Dee is a few miles away, and golfers will be spoilt by the plethora of courses. The sea is a mile away.
- **Access:** Aberdeen airport is 17 miles north, and flights to London last about 80 minutes. Muchalls is only a half a mile from the A90, the Perth-Aberdeen road.

### Property profile: news, views and prices around Britain



■ **Attractions:** one of the cheapest commutable areas from London, according to Mark Oliver at Savills. Ipswich is one hour by train to Liverpool Street. Close to Cambridge, with good links to Felixstowe, and notable for its heritage coastline, the Stour Valley, Newmarket, and the villages of Framlingham, Lavenham and Woodbridge.

■ **The market:** bullish, according to overworked agents, with many reporting rises of up to 15 per cent for prime properties this year. The market fell hard in 1990, but prices are back to peak levels in some areas, and the million-pound deal has hit Suffolk. Supply is a problem, however. Bidwells reckons there are ten purchasers for every quality property. Bedfords has 600-700 applicants for 40 properties.

■ **Expect to pay:** £200,000 to £300,000 for a country house in north Suffolk; £275,000 to £275,000 in south Suffolk. Half the 1,200 clients on Savills' Ipswich list are down for old rectories and large country houses in the £300,000 to £500,000 range.

■ **Major sales:** Savills sold a house in the Stour Valley for £1.25 million. Strutt & Parker sold Otley Hall, near Ipswich,

for £900,000 in January. Asking price was £750,000.

■ **Outlook:** further rises are expected. Mr Bedford expects more properties to come on the market this summer. The

bully John Grossart, of Jackson-Stops & Staff in Newmarket, reckons Suffolk will soon give the Home Counties a run for their money.

Next week: Shropshire

**AMANDA LOOSE**

British country page 22

that 50 per cent of these go for cash buyers spending less than they sold their homes for.

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# The guests who refuse to leave

MELVYN BAGSHAW

Hot summers mean the arrival of wasps, rats, mice and cockroaches so don't leave chocolate or peanut butter out

**R**eports that Britain's summer is to become longer and hotter is unfortunately good news for our perennial pests. Longer summers mean wasps, rats and cockroaches will all be making their appearances that much earlier.

This year's early spring has already been marked by the unmistakeable rustling, chewing and buzzing of irritating, uninvited houseguests. The Chartered Institute of Environmental Health which plays a major role in raising awareness of public health issues warns that we all have a very strong chance of encountering some form of pest which poses a significant health risk. For all pest problems the Institute advises people to contact their local environmental health department.

The house mouse is the most common pest. Most house and field mice infestations are cleared up in two or three visits. Pest control officers locate the "mice runs" and then lay poison and traps. Favourite mice haunts are in cupboards and drawers and behind kitchen units. Pest control officers are then legally required to return to remove the poison (which is harmful to humans and pets). Your council may provide a mice control service free or at a subsidised rate. Otherwise you will have to pay a private contractor.

The British Pest Control Association expects large companies to charge around £50 an hour. Smaller companies should be £35 an hour.

You may prefer to treat the problem yourself. The golden rule is to make sure nothing is left out for the mice to eat. Hardware stores stock poisons and traps but read the instructions carefully. Research carried out by the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health discovered that 20 per cent of those encountering pest infestations were not bothering to treat them at all, while another 20 per cent treated them ineffectively.

Dr John Simmons of the BPCA said: "It's a myth that mice particularly like cheese. Mice and rats have a very similar palate to our own. They can even taste the food colouring in poisons. Their favourite food is chocolate or peanut butter."

A recent Institute survey showed rat infestations had increased by 39 per cent since 1979. Rats only live for between nine and 18 months but mate from two to three months and can produce seven litters of eight or ten

## PEST CHARGES

CHARGES for pest control and the extent of services available vary from council to council, but as a rough guide:

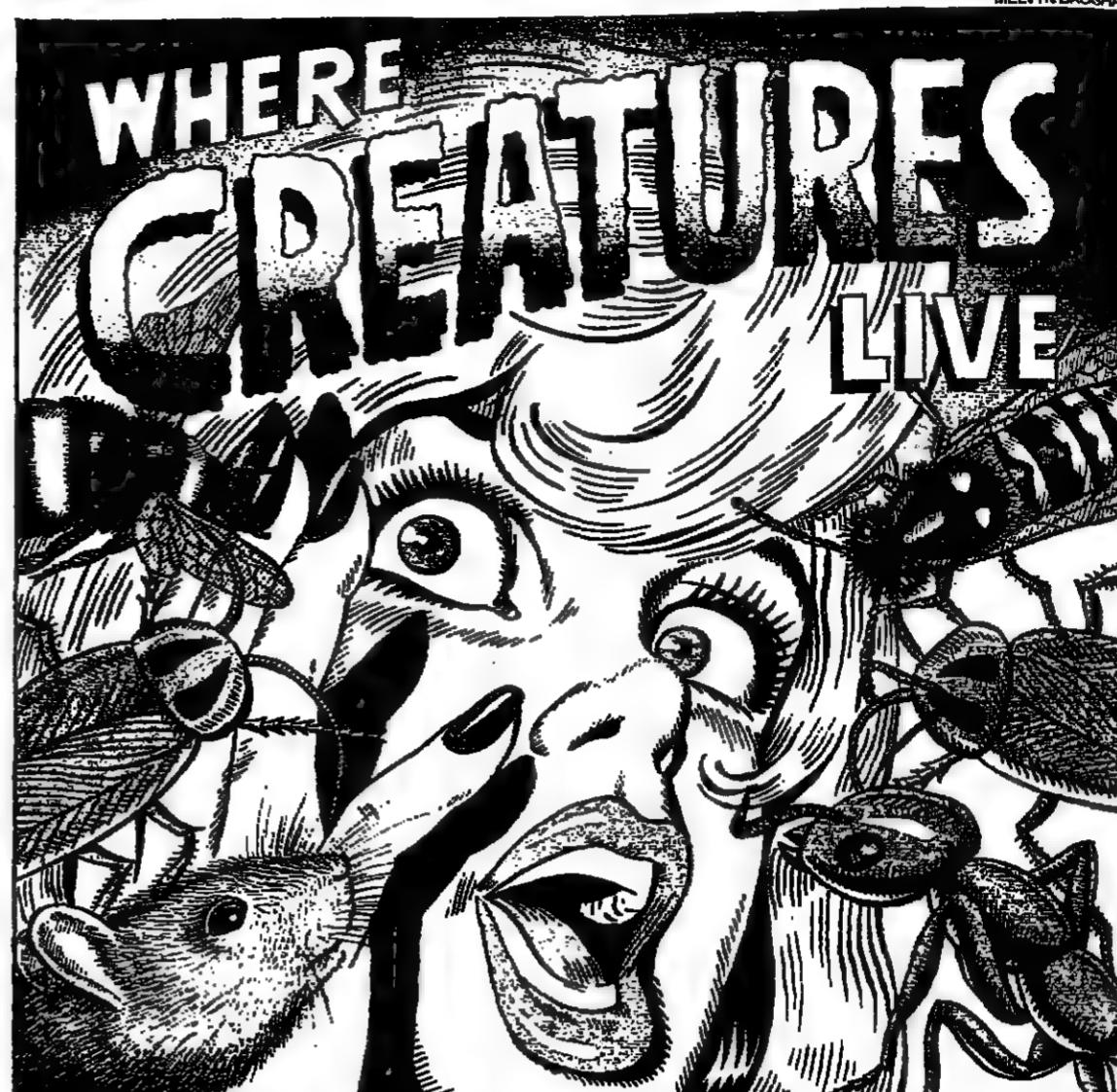
- Rats are usually treated free, as these are generally considered to be a health risk, and there is often no charge for mice and cockroaches.
- A charge is usually levied for treating wasps (this can be around £25 or £35) though some councils offer a free service for those on income support. A wasp service may not be available from every authority, though the council usually provides information about private companies who can help.
- Some pest control officers will also take on problems with squirrels free of charge – although, again, a squirrel service may not be universally available.
- Rentokil base their charges on the time and work involved in tackling a particular problem, but will always provide an estimate before any measures are carried out.

offspring per year. For many people the first sign of a rat in the house is a smell of cabbage caused by a decomposing rat under the floorboards.

Anita Tilley, 30, is a rat-catcher. She says rodent infestations are getting worse. Each year her company, JR Cockburn and Sons, deals with a 10 per cent increase in rodent pests. "Rats really frighten people. We get more false alarms for rats than anything else," she says. People panic when they think they have caught a glimpse of a rat, but often it turns out to be a big mouse or even a squirrel. What seems to be signs of a rat presence, such as holes in compost or rubbish that has been interfered with, often turn out to be the work of mice or domestic animals.

At the Cockburn offices in west London there's a gruesome reminder of the sort of damage the omnivorous rat can cause. Miss Tilley says: "We keep a collection of items half-eaten by rats. These include a sardine tin, books, soap, photographs and, of course, all kinds of rat traps."

Almost every council will provide a free or subsidised rat control service and most problems are cleared up in two or three visits. Any routes (gaps in air bricks and through the floorboards) the rat may be using to enter



a property are sealed. The same chemicals used to kill mice are employed against rats but traps are less effective against the wary rat.

**I**n inner cities, Oriental and German cockroaches, which have now become the two main indigenous species, are a real problem. Entomologist Tony Stephens, who has spent ten years tackling pest control with Rentokil, says: "They get into buildings via the sewerage system." For every one identified you can expect there to be ten more, he says. Pest control officers spray chemicals behind kitchen units to kill them off. Contact your council.

Bee keepers are also gearing up for another busy year. Most bee problems are caused by honey bees, but masonry bees, which don't sting, bore into stone and mortar and are

more difficult to deal with. Wild swarms of bees, and those which have escaped from bee hives, are not protected by law. Environmental health departments should be able to put you in contact with beekeepers.

Wasps nest in eaves and lofts or even inside the house, behind a curtain. In larger nests there can be as many as 30,000 wasps.

Mr Stephens advises people not to tackle the nests themselves: "Bee and wasp stings are very dangerous in large numbers and they will defend the nests," he says.

Last summer's plague of ants was, in the majority of cases, treated without the pest control experts. Ant powders – from hardware stores and chemists – should be directed against nests or points of access to the house rather than the ant "runs".

Certain "pests" are protected by law. Under the 1981 Wildlife and

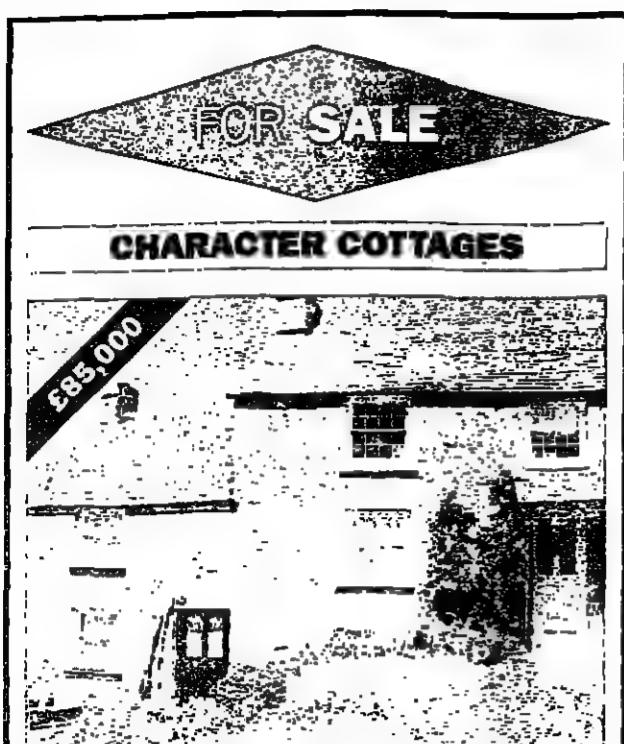
Countryside Act it is an offence, punishable by a maximum £5,000 fine, to handle bats or interfere with their habitats.

Similar protection is afforded to dormice and red squirrels. Adders, grass snakes and slow worms enjoy limited protection against "killing, injuring and sale".

However, when it comes to banana spiders, which have a harmful bite, and which retailers occasionally discover along with other spiders, or even tree frogs and snakes in boxes of produce from overseas, it is still permissible to strike first and ask questions later.

ROBERT VERKAIK

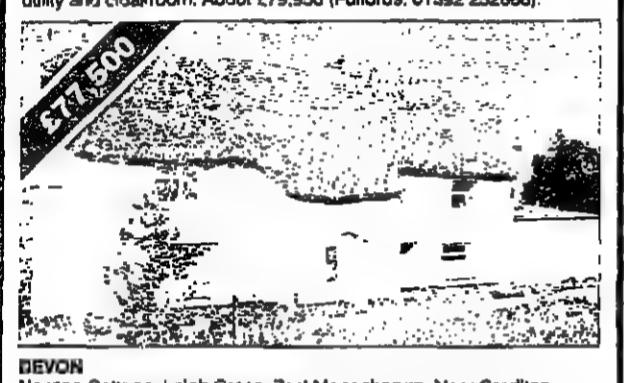
■ For enquiries about all pests call Rentokil on 01342 833022. For help with protected "pests" call English Nature on 01733 340345. The British Bee Keeping Association, 01233 490674.



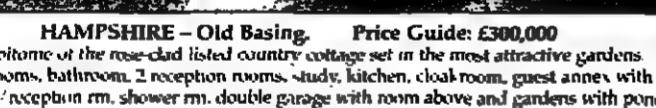
**CORNWALL**  
2 & 3 Victoria Terrace, St. Beward, Nr. Bodmin. Two refurbished cottages (in a terrace of five) with front and rear gardens, in a peaceful village location. No.2 has one bedroom, bathroom, lounge and kitchen/dining room. About £85,000 (Andrew Jeffery, 01208 73298).



**DEVON**  
Higher Budlake Cottage, Nr. Broadclyst, Exeter. Detached thatched character cottage in pretty, well-stocked gardens, in the countryside with easy access to the city centre. Three bedrooms, bathroom, sitting room with inglenook fireplace, kitchen/dining room, study, utility and cloakroom. About £79,950 (Fullords, 01392 252888).



**DEVON**  
Newton Cottage, Leigh Cross, Zeal Monachorum. Near Crediton. 17th-century detached thatched character cottage with many original features in a rural setting with a garden and far-reaching views. Two double bedrooms, sitting room, kitchen/breakfast room, pantry, store room, shower room. Garage and outbuilding. About £77,500 (Village & Country Property, 01392 499699). CHERYL TAYLOR



**HAMPSHIRE – Old Basing.** Price Guide: £300,000  
The epitome of the rose-dod listed country cottage set in the most attractive gardens. 3 bedrooms, bathroom, 2 reception rooms, study, kitchen, cloak room, guest annexe, double garage with room above and gardens with pond.

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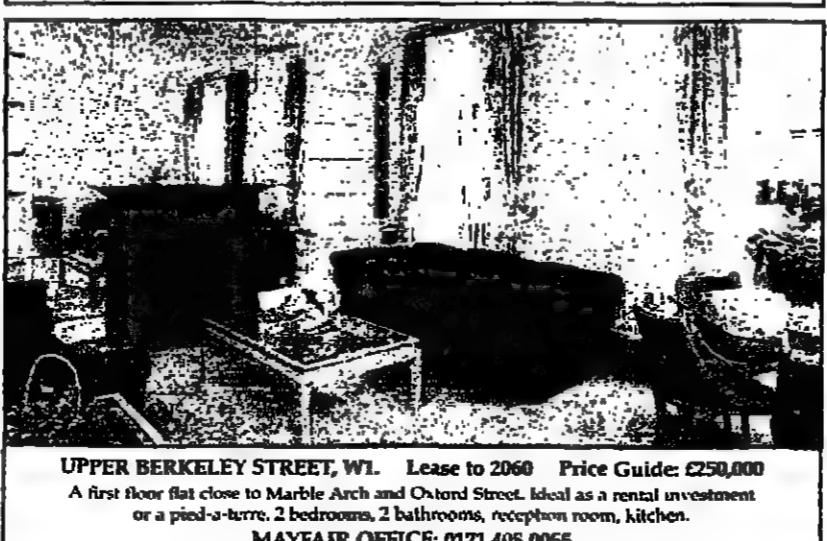
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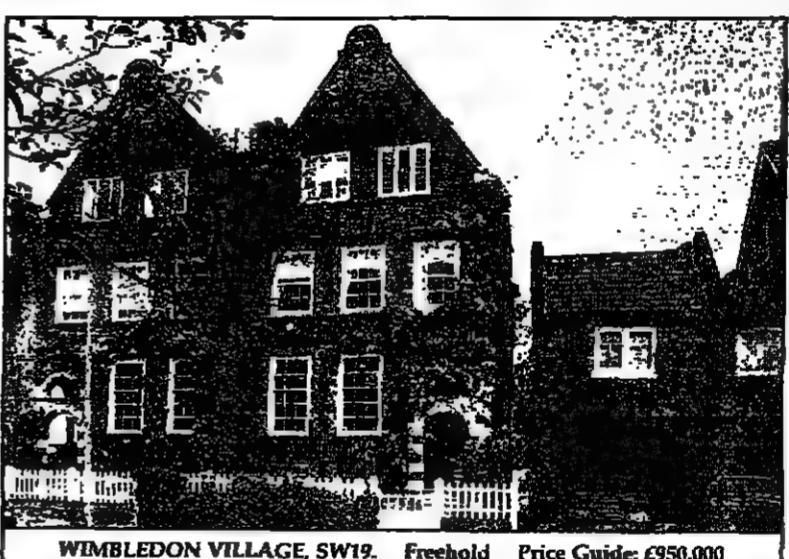
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**WIMBLEDON VILLAGE, SW19.** Freehold Price Guide: £950,000

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**HERTFORDSHIRE – Wigginton.** For sale as whole

A fine residential and arable listed farmhouse, with secondary cottage, in an outstanding location on the edge of the Chilterns. 5 bedrooms, 2 reception rooms, barn, gardens, pool and cottage with 3 bedrooms, 2 reception rooms. Farm buildings, stabling and paddocks. About 109 ha (270 acres).

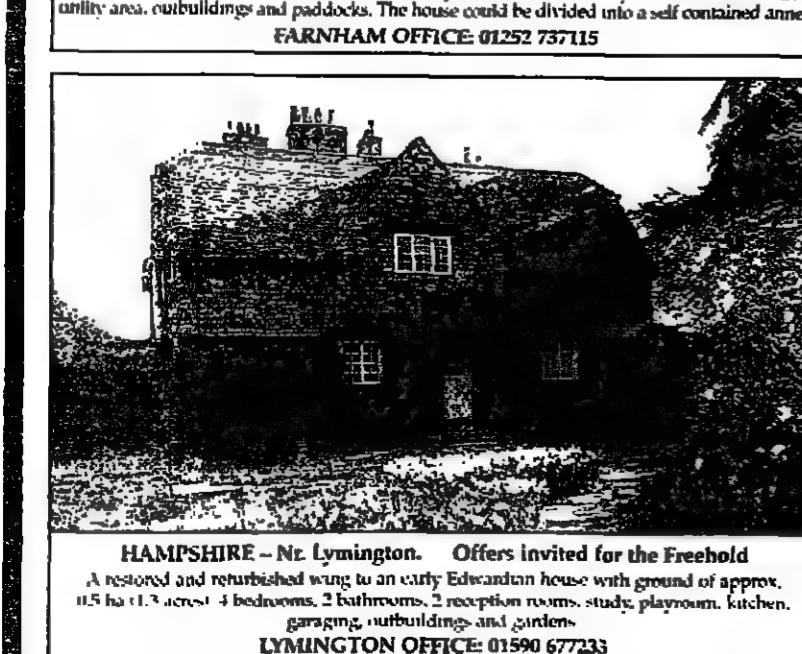
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**BATTERSEA PARK ROAD, SW11.** Lease to 2120 Price Guide: £115,000

An unusual and interesting flat close to Chelsea Bridge with transport facilities on the doorstep. Bedroom, bathroom, reception room/kitchen, living room and roof terrace.

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**HAMPSHIRE – Nr. Lymington.** Offers invited for the Freehold

A fine listed 18th century house with further Victorian additions. Grounds of approx. 0.5 ha (1.2 acres). 5 bedrooms, 3 reception rooms, study, playroom, kitchen, garage, outbuildings and gardens.

LYMINGTON OFFICE: 01590 677233

July 1997







The warden Austen Widdows warns visitors to stop at 50 yards

## Warning: these cows are dangerous

Christian Dymond visits an aggressive breed of Northumberland cattle unchanged for 700 years

**A**fter spending more than 700 years behind a seven-mile-long wall in north Northumberland, the Wild White Cattle of Chillingham still refuse to be tamed. Nobody handles them, and nobody goes close to them. If they pick up human scent on another, they have been known to gore or trample it to death.

Even their warden, Austen Widdows, is wary. "I once found a cow stuck in a bog, and for several days I left her near it so it could feed and build up strength. Eventually, the animal managed to free itself, but it turned on me. I ran to my Land Rover, but it stuck its head through the back of the vehicle, and only by protecting myself with a bale of hay did I escape serious injury."

Visitors have to observe a strict code of conduct when they come to see the animals. After picking up a ticket at the cottage close to Chillingham Castle, they take a 20-minute walk through woods and across fields.

"Don't go closer than 50 yards to the cattle," Mr Widdows warns. "Never approach a mother and calf, and don't come between an

animal and the rest of the herd."

The Wild Whites are said to be direct descendants of beasts which roamed here thousands of years ago. They inhabit 365 acres out of a total 1,500 acres which was enclosed in the 13th century.

Their domain is rough ground, some of it boggy and much of it scattered with alder, birch, oak and ash, trees being the only shelter they have in harsh weather. The land, which they share with deer and sheep, is left unfertilised to prevent their diet from becoming too rich.

When I visited, two old fellows, red-eared and dark-muzzled, were grazing peacefully in the weak sunshine. But looks are deceptive. These characters had spent their youth in trials of strength with other bulls and, even in their dotage, can turn nasty. One was a former king bull, banished from the herd because it still presented a threat to the present king bull.

It is the king bull system which has been the Wild White Cattle's saving grace. Mr Widdows believes it unlikely that other cattle types have been introduced to them during the past 700 years.

factor which ensures that stronger genes pass down the generations. Weaklings are banished by the herd to somewhere else in the parkland or, worse — are gored or trampled to death.

Trials of strength between younger bulls are common, and ensure preparation for the day when they will challenge the king bull. It is easy to spot where the scrapping goes on because every so often you come across a bare circle of ground, often 10ft in diameter.

**T**wo calves have recently been born to the herd, so the group has increased to a healthy 48, up 35 from 50 years ago, when the terrible winter of 1946-1947 reduced the numbers to 13.

As a precaution for the breed's future, one bull and two cows were moved to a secret location in Scotland, where numbers have risen to eight. The three that were moved all had the same scent of humans on them so that no single beast smells differently.

Towards the end of my visit, Mr Widdows caught a glimpse of a large group of cattle in the dis-

tance, high up on the Prince of Wales plain, so called because in 1872 the future Edward VII shot the king bull there for sport.

We climbed the slope, gave a wide berth to a couple of isolated old bulls and approached the main herd slowly. Alarmed by our presence, a group of deer started to run away from us, which might have triggered a cattle stampede. We studied the herd for some minutes. A few raised their heads and glanced in our direction before returning to the business of eating grass.

The Wild White Cattle of Chillingham looked no more threatening than a herd of Friesians. But then I was 100 yards away, and that's exactly where I remained.

• The cattle park is open daily from April 1 to October 31 from 10am-1.30pm and 2-5pm except Tuesday morning; Sundays, 2-5pm. It is open in winter (telephone 01668 215250).

• The Rare Breeds Survival Trust (0123 694555).



Edward VII shot the king bull

But, thanks to the king bull system and a macho culture, degeneracy has been avoided.

The king is the dominant male. His reign lasts about two or three years during which he has the privilege of siring all the calves in the herd before a younger, fitter male defeats him in a trial of strength. As heifers do not conceive until they are about three and a half years old, a king bull is rarely around long enough to mate with its offspring. There is another

## Too cute to cull? Blame Disney

Readers have their say on country matters — from sapling destruction to old remedies and grass snakes mating

**O**h, the joy of your letters. I have just opened one which begins: "The other day, I had to swerve to avoid a couple of grass snakes making love in the middle of the road."

We shall return to the courting grass snakes, but may I say that one of the great pleasures of your correspondence, for which many thanks, is the way in which a mere fleeting mention sends your pens off at fascinating tangents. A good example is

### DOWN TO EARTH



PAUL HEINEY

hearted countrymen have to look the other way.

We live in an area where a small, but growing, herd of deer wanders from wood to wood, trampling and grazing corn and crops as they go. A local shot (sufficiently skilled to guarantee a clean kill) attempted to control them.

There was an outcry. "We like to see the deer coming through", was the popular opinion, even among farmers whose crops were threatened.

However, as Mrs Stevenson points out, if the gun is never raised, the consequences can be disastrous. And who shall we blame? Walt Disney?

However, before we get too gun-happy, let us take note of a card from Stephanie West of Hertford College, Oxford:

*I wonder if you could discover the results of an experiment reported in The Times in 1984 of a Scottish landowner (acting on Israeli advice) who had started using lion droppings from Edinburgh zoo to keep red deer off his winter barley. Has the practice spread? How often are fresh droppings required?*

Or did the landowner get, perhaps, a little too close with his collecting bucket, and go the way of Stanley Holloway's Albert and the Lion?

Just in case anyone thinks that the balance of nature is being tipped in favour of the hunter to the detriment of the animal, Anne Timmis, who lives in the Ardeche, a boar-hunting region in southeast France, writes to tell me of abundant pastures, extended

### WRITE TO PAUL HEINEY

*Readers' letters are welcome on countryside matters of any kind, from wildlife to village life, from people to politics. Letters are featured on the first Saturday of every month.*

*Send letters to: Paul Heiney, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington St, London E1 9XN.*

### ON THE SPOT: CONNEMARA

#### Rural recommendations

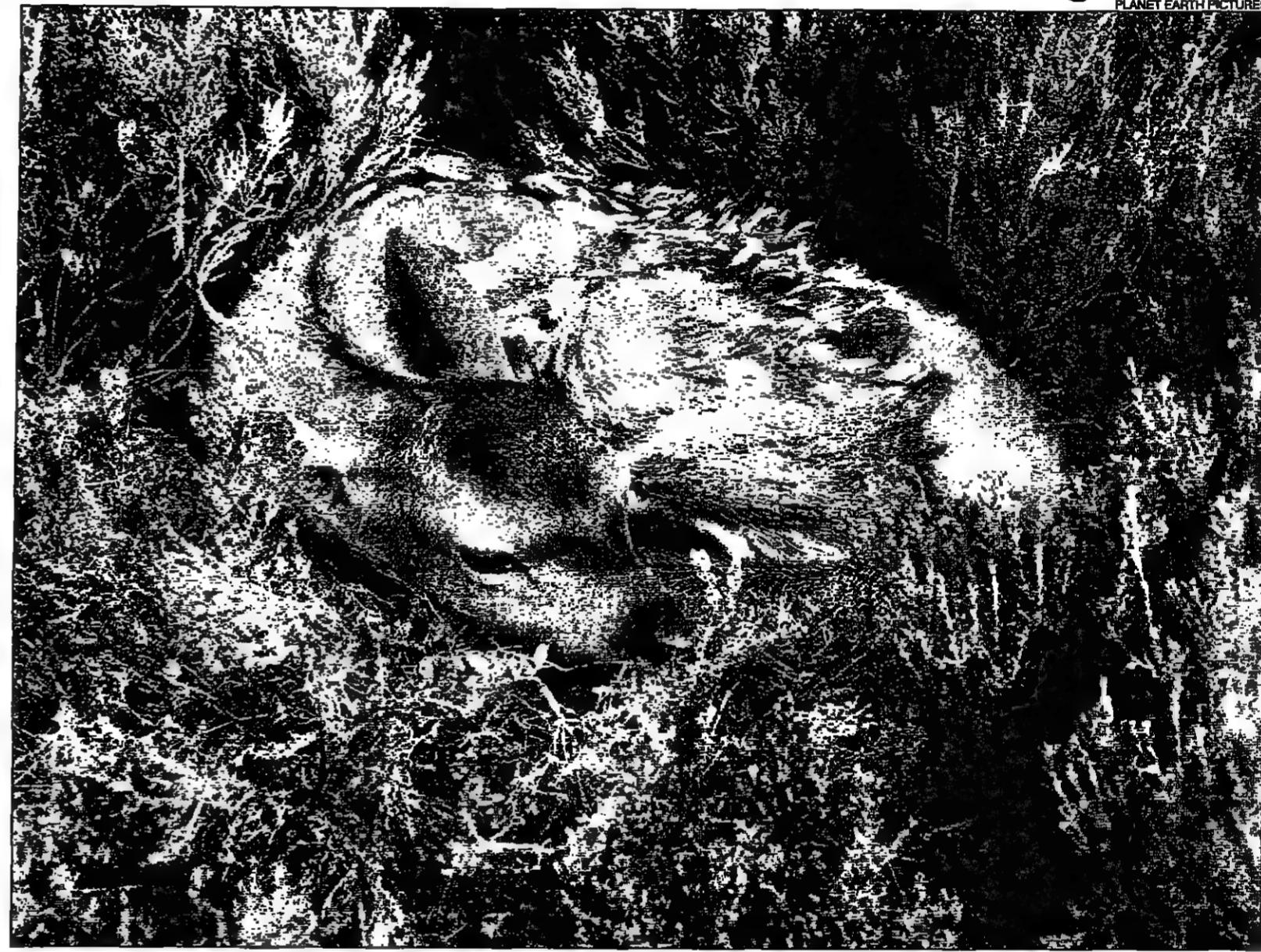
The place: Clifden, a town founded in the 19th century by the D'Arcy family near to a poor village of the same name. Based around D'Arcy Castle, the small picturesque harbour, and two churches — Catholic and Protestant. By the way, this is Quiet Man country. The view: Surrounded by the Twelve Bens, miniature "Swiss" mountains, up to 4,000 feet high; at the foot green and brown heather, blending into green and red fuchsia, and in the heights a daunting grey of sparkling granite. Climbers beware. On the hill above the gaily-painted houses, shops and hotels is an infamous battlefield where the opposing forces of the 1921 Troubles clashed with much loss of local life. The appeal: To stand on the quays of Clifden Bay Harbour and look across its tidal waters to the mountainous Twelve Bens is a sobering experience. Walk down the beach road and up the hillside and there are the

breaking waves of the Atlantic roaring towards Slyne Head.

Historic interest: The first radio message was sent to America from the D'Arcy Castle Radio Station. The burnt-out ruins still stand on the High Road, two miles outside Clifden. Less than a mile outside town a plaque commemorates the first non-stop flight from the United States to Great Britain (Ireland) by Alcock and Brown, both British, who flew over Clifden and landed in the bog. Best time to visit: May, June and September when there are fewer tourists and more seats in the many jolly singing pubs. And don't forget the Oyster Festival in Galway. OS reference: 0662SI (OS Road Atlas of Ireland)

Also nearby: The Connemara National Park, deep sea fishing from Clifden harbour, Kylemore Abbey, and the principal salmon and trout fishery of Ballynahinch Castle — an excellent hotel.

ARTHUR GOULD



The Bambi syndrome: deer often devastate their own environment — but at the mention of a cull local people object, saying they like to see the animals

that she supports my previously expressed concern that ancient remedies are disappearing fast. She writes:

*I am happy to tell you that European Herbal Medicine (no connection with homeopathy or Chinese medicine) is all alive and well in this NHS centre. I work in conjunction with a team of five GPs who regularly refer patients to the centre.*

Traditional remedies exist for both animal and human ailments, and in many developing countries these remedies are actually being used and promoted. With other vets, I've just set up a charitable organisation which aims to promote ethnoveterinary practice.

And Sue Eldin, writing from Wapping, east London, tells us

too. We are fewer and, therefore, must be noisier.

Heather Shute and Gill Chowns, for example, writing from Oxfordshire, will aggravate Ms Page further:

*We have composed a short list of how to recognise approaching towns when out in the fields and byways:*

*1. They cannot get through barbed wire without damaging themselves.*

*2. They don't like walking through a field of cows.*

*3. They wash the mud off their bellies when they get home.*

*4. They climb over the wrong end of gates.*

Then, in the interests of fairness to both sides, they make the following suggestion:

*Other readers might like to add to this list. Or perhaps someone could start a list of how to recognise country-dwellers in towns.*

She writes briefly and crisply:

*Have you any idea how repetitive and tiresome your townie-bashing is?*

Sorry! But urban dwellers are not reticent in passing opinion on country matters, and we must be allowed our shout,

too. We are fewer and, therefore, must be noisier.

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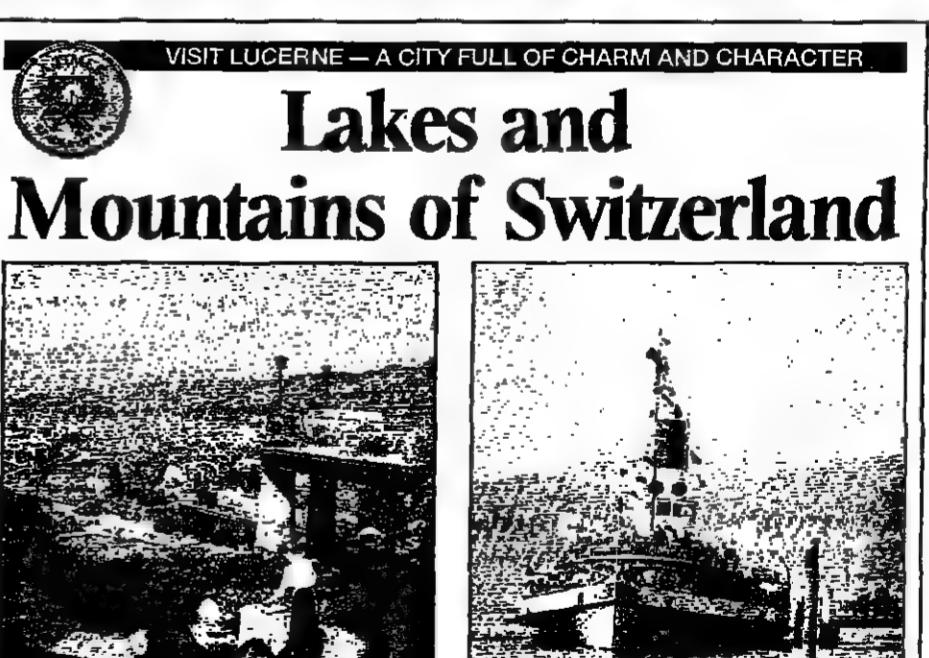
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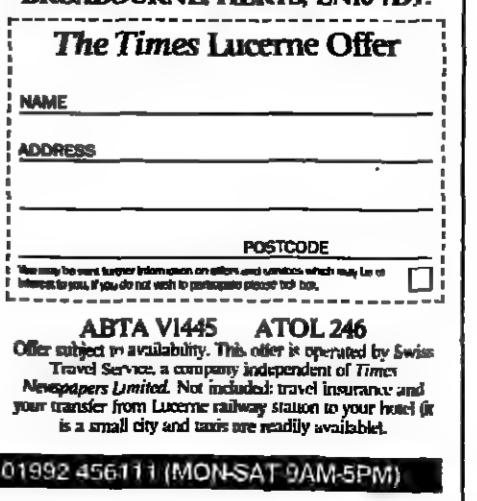
I look forward to a bulging postbag from both sides.

Rabbit destruction, page 13



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'I wouldn't dream of ruining my weekend lie-in, but men will sacrifice anything for their hobby - which shows how foolish they are'

**D**id you know that the Metropolitan Line used to go all the way out to Verney Junction and Brill, but now only goes as far as Amersham? And that if you laid all the Tube track end to end the distance it would cover would be 408 kilometres? And how about this little humdinger: St John's Wood is the only Tube station which does not contain any of the letters in the word "mackerel".

Our nine-year-old son has become a trampster and a tyrannical collector of trivia. Every car journey is an odyssey around the back page of the A-Z: each station spotted must be traced and identified on the Tube map, to be memorised and stored for such a time, presumably, when he appears on *Mastermind* (or its descendant), special subject: The London Underground. It is simply inconceivable that a nine-year-old girl would have such an obsession.

His parents think of themselves as running an impeccably non-sexist household, but there is nothing more blokeish than having a hobby. When my mother gave her grandson a slender burgundy-coloured book called *The Metropolitan Line: A Brief History* by Charles E. Lee,

F.C.I.T. — a London Transport Publication, copyright London Transport Executive 1972, price 25p — little did she realise that she was catapulting our son into fully fledged manhood.

Men have hobbies; women have friends. Men join clubs; women form their own. The obituaries of esteemed men are studded with details about their adventurous or recondite pastimes: skydiving and motorcycling mingle with Mozzie and exotic orchid collections. The extra-curricular activities of illustrious dead women, in contrast, tend towards the noble and community-minded — there is rarely the sense of an interest pursued purely for the sheer, unadulterated pleasure of it.

Men can make a hobby out of anything at all. The writer Bill Bryson, for instance, "collects" preposterous English place names: Pratt's Bottom and so on — which doesn't stop him being snooty about a trainwanker (something

worse than a trainwanker since, like our darling son, he believes in inflicting his information on others) whom he meets on his travels.

The last time I touched on gender differences, when I suggested that heterosexual men (unlike women) hardly ever go out to dinner *à deux*, the subject provoked a lively correspondence. One letter-writer from Hampstead informed me that he and his best mate were keen on footie, beer, women and Eddie Izzard, but also enjoyed a "nice, cosy, quiet dinner in a nice little restaurant" together once or twice a week — even, indeed, on Valentine's Day — before going home to

their wives. Women, he wished to say in a friendly way, don't have the monopoly on "quality" friendships.

A gentleman from Sussex, who welcomed the debate as a distraction from post-operative tedium, wrote to me from hospital with some insights into the differences between male and female friendships. "In

observing women I acknowledge that they may appear to have more fun (than men) not least because females can let their hair down without getting drunk." In his experience, men do not discuss intimate relationships, particularly those with their wives or girlfriends. Nor do

they boast. "There was a man with very small handwriting who wrote from Lancaster to agree with me that it was unusual for men to invite one another round to their homes for dinner, unless picking up fish and chips on the way back from the pub or hear some records or watch *Match of the Day*." He went on to ask why women are so bad at forming clubs when "men have clubs for every conceivable thing." The conclusion must be that men enjoy the company of other men more than women enjoy the company of other women.

As someone who can barely meet up with a group of women without forming a club, I would have to disagree. These are not clubs in the institutional Pall Mall sense, but gatherings of like-minded souls who meet up informally for a meal. In case I stand accused of making a universe out of my own small world, almost every woman I meet belongs to a reading club; surely the contemporary

equivalent of the needlepoint circle.

In an untypical week, I might be fortunate enough to be a guest at the Lady Novelists who Lunch Club, there will be dinner with The Velvet Club (a group of women interviewers who all happened to be wearing velvet the first time we met), lunch with the ironically titled Hockey Club (set up by a headhunter turned redundancy counsellor — what a sign of the times — and her artist girlfriend; other unsporty members include a publisher, film maker and comedienne) and, perhaps, a knees-up at the more drably named, but infinitely more worthy Women in Journalism.

Contrast this with my husband's week, which is typical: squash on Monday, gardening course on Wednesday morning and Tai-chi in the evening, piano class Friday evening, and football with the Battersea Barbarians on Sunday morning. Now I wouldn't dream of ruining my weekend lie-in for one of my "clubs", but men — you see — will sacrifice anything for their hobbies. Which just goes to show that women are sensible and men are foolish.

Don't you agree?

PAUL REEVES

## Why men always go to the dogs

LIFE AND SOUL



GINNY DOUGRAY

**'There must be a part of me that hopes, otherwise I'd give up'**

**Jane McCarthy** reports on how a family adjusts its entire life and expectations when a devastating accident arrives — literally as a bolt from the blue

**O**ne year ago today the unthinkable happened to 16-year-old James Pugsley. It was Friday evening and a thunderstorm was raging over the Wiltshire village of East Knoll. James was helping the local farmer bring in his herd of cows — when a bolt of lightning struck him directly through the heart. Just yards away the farmer and his wife heard an almighty bang and watched in horror as the boy burst into flames and dropped to the ground.

That, you might think, was the tragic end of a teenage life, but against all the odds James is back home with his family. However, his is not some story of a miracle cure; rather, James's survival is probably more devastating to his family than the grief at his sudden death might have been.

Resuscitated four times by paramedics at the scene and on arrival at the Accident and Emergency department at Salisbury District Hospital, his mother Yvonne says he was, in effect, dead for a total of 20 minutes. This has left him 70 per cent brain damaged. In neurological terms he moves between a persistent vegetative state (PVS) and one of low awareness, which means he has been left unable to speak or move. Although he breathes independently, he has suction tubes in his throat because he cannot swallow and he is fed liquids through a tube in his stomach.

At best, when he is in low awareness, he can focus and follow movements around the room with his eyes. He has some sense of hearing and taste, but as to his emotional and intellectual capacity one can only wonder and fear. At times his face struggles to form itself into an expression that his mother and those closest to him can interpret as a smile, a grimace or a wince — indications, they say, of physical and cognitive awareness. Otherwise his communication is limited to blinking.

**M**rs Pugsley is not one for over-estimating his capabilities or clinging on to false hopes; she faces harsh reality with unfliching resolve, but what remains of her son she loves and nurtures. "I can tell when he's in pain just by looking at him," she says, "and if I tickle him I can feel the same resistance, the fight inside him just as it always would have been. I can still hear his voice, too, which makes it worse, and I often know what he would be saying." On one terrible occasion, while James was still at the Royal Hospital for Neuro-Disability in London, she showed him a photograph of himself clearing snow in a tractor six months before his accident. He cried.

To have survived the past year has been a test of endurance for both James and his family. The lightning left him with full depth (to the bone) burns around his ribcage and



James when at Gillingham School, Dorset, before the accident. He was deep in GCSEs when it occurred

pelvis, requiring reconstructive surgery with skin grafts and a month in intensive care. He is subject to spasms and is at continual risk of chest and urine infections. Loss of muscle tone has led to shortened tendons in one arm and curvature of the spine puts pressure on his internal organs.

All this means 24-hour nursing care and a rigorous timetable of physiotherapy, drugs, tube feeding and suctioning. The fact that he was back home after just seven months, confounding all medical opinion, is a testament to his mother's determination and to

watching a child exist in a severely restricted state is extremely disturbing for all concerned and the grieving goes on indefinitely. Death is expected but unknown; it is to be both dreaded and welcomed, because only when that release comes can a family really start to come terms with their loss. As Mrs Pugsley notes: "We lost James a year ago. But we have got to lose him twice and it will be even worse losing that last bit of him."

Alison White, Professor of Community Nursing at King's College London and author of two studies of families in similar circumstances, recalls one case where parents took their children home to die soon after birth: "The child is now 17. That family had been on hold for 17 years. The mother said she was buried to death."

The impact on the family is immense, whatever the cause of the child's condition, but the suddenness of an event such as lightning contributes to the stress. Andrew Worthington, a clinical neuro-psychologist at Grafton Manor Brain Injury Unit, Northampton, explains:

"Something so unpredictable as this does test people's belief in a just world and, with no one at fault, the blame can be turned on oneself." Professor While agrees: "Guilt is common with accidents. The role of a mother is to protect and care for her children and nurture them into adulthood. Our studies suggest that the older the child, the greater the emotional and psychological. You can see them on the brink of independence and yet their adulthood will remain unfulfilled."

James's mother knows that feeling all too well: "You think you can protect your children from everything, but there's always something you miss." Anger is probably what drives her now — anger and bitterness with the medical profes-

sion, God, bureaucracy in the health service, meanness in the benefits system, some parents and their casual attitudes, psychologists and James's peers who still have their lives ahead of them.

James's mother acknowledges the truth of this: "I know my husband Trevor thinks I'm an obsessed mother because I want to do a lot of the nursing myself. We did go away for a weekend together but I felt like a fish out of water — worrying because no one knows James like I know him. And he can't speak for himself."

Deep down, she says, her husband cannot accept what has happened. "He is very possessive about James's things — no one is allowed to touch his collection

the need to be needed. Her husband and other children can slip away while the mother and sick child develop an ever closer relationship."

In the Pugsley household James's mother acknowledges the truth of this: "I know my husband Trevor thinks I'm an obsessed mother because I want to do a lot of the nursing myself. We did go away for a weekend together but I felt like a fish out of water — worrying because no one knows James like I know him. And he can't speak for himself."

Deep down, she says, her husband cannot accept what has happened. "He is very possessive about James's things — no one is allowed to touch his collection

of model diggers and tractors. It's his way of preserving what was before."

Mrs Pugsley worries for her and for their other two children. Karl has had trouble sleeping and has been in fights at school with children saying his brother would be better off dead, while Martine has developed a phobia of fire and a tendency to sit silently rocking and staring into space.

No one knows the long-term effects on the siblings of severely disabled children, but in the short term there is the risk of emotional and behavioural problems and under-achievement at school. But for some, Professor While reports, it can be a positive experience: "It strengthens them and they learn independently. If they get too involved with the caring they risk losing their own childhood."

Karl and Martine play their part willingly and are increasingly competent at the many tasks. The bond between the children is still strong: Martine will cuddle up with James to watch television or climb over him playing with her Barbie dolls, and their mother has noticed Karl becoming more relaxed in the way he talks to James.

It is only in her dreams that Mrs Pugsley sees herself walking away. "You have to live with what's real. Hope just lets you down, but there must be a part of me that hopes, otherwise I'd give up. Kids are for life. I just wish I could turn the clock back."



James Pugsley, 17, with his brother Karl, 15, and sister Martine, 8. To have survived the past 365 days has been a test of endurance for the family

**'Something like this tests people's belief in a just world. With no one at fault, blame can be turned on oneself'**

**Jane McCarthy**

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**Jane McCarthy**

### FACT FILE

• "A study of the needs and provisions for families caring for children with life-limiting and incurable disorders" (1996) and "Bereaved parents' views of caring for a child with an incurable disorder" (1996) by Alison White.

• Contact-a-Family (0171-383 3555).

• Other useful numbers: the Council for Disabled Children (0171-843 6061); Headway — National Head Injuries Association (0115-924 0800).

Ruth Gledhill's column, *At Your Service*, returns next week





Make the  
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year

Guide · 18

THE TIMES

# travel

Notes  
from  
Britten  
country

Britain · 22



## Wherever I sling my hammock

### Honduras has spectacular Mayan remains, beautiful islands and charming people

I could not last. I had been travelling thousands of miles making dozens of hair's-breadth connections without a hitch. Something was due to go wrong. The plane out of Miami made a pass at San Pedro Sula, Honduras, then thought better of it and set down at Belize. We tried again. The pilot bravely announced we would be on the ground in 12 minutes. He dived into cloud but swept back up out of it. We flew back to Miami and another night in an airport motel. Next day we made it.

This is not a whine but a warning. Travel to and around Honduras is erratic. Most roads are untarred and the ones that are made up regularly peter out. Things had been made worse on my trip by intense rain, so heavy that chunks of such motorway as there is near San Pedro were occupied by poor wretches camping under palm leaves and plastic. On my second last day I waited five hours at La Ceiba airport to make the hop back to San Pedro. It was cloudy and raining but there were no announcements. As I was ready to give up and check into a hotel we were cleared for take-off, though what had improved in the weather I could not see.

Gross national poverty is one reason why the roads are shabby and the airports badly equipped. But there is something in the Honduran mood, a cast of mind which says, "There is no hurry; tomorrow will do." The macaw is a national symbol, but I would go for the hammock. Every home has one and hammocks represent perfectly the local, truly laid-back style of life.

Something else that made me edgy at first was the custom which has every *campesino* carry a fearsome-looking machete wherever he goes. I soon learnt this was an all-purpose tool, used for everything from chopping firewood to peeling an orange. You quickly get used to it. Less visible but more worrying is the habit of carrying guns. Restaurants, even hospitals, announce they will not serve customers who are armed.

However, I must say I saw no violence. Charm is part of the national character. If you are a stickler for timetables, you will find Honduras hard to bear. If you are patient, there are rich rewards: Mayan temples, wildlife, jungles, Caribbean beaches, friendly folk.

Spectacular is not a word to use lightly but it is the only one that will do for the Mayan ruins at Copan. They are massive, ceremonial, with a great many staircases, strange carvings and hieroglyphs. I was especially intrigued by the

playing field for *pelota*, more ritual than game. Apparently those taking part could use all their bodies except their hands and feet. The idea was to keep the heavy "ball" from hitting the ground.

When it was over, I gather, somebody was sacrificed, perhaps the poor fellow who scored the own-goal. The ball-shaped altar is still there with the hollow into which the victim's blood is poured from his slashed throat and the groove which lets his blood flow down to the ground.

I try to imagine my way into the minds that sustained such a complex civilisation but find them unimaginable. How could a people devise a sophisticated cosmology, a calendar, a building system and a script, yet fail to stumble on the wheel? And how could they let go of it all, so that their high civilisation disappeared?

My imaginings are further confused by a full-scale model of Mayan building in the nearby museum which is painted in the original colours of bright red, green and white.

How could they be so garish,

so vulgar? But then I remember that Greek temples, now

liveried in a decent grey, were once painted, too.

Later the same day I visit a Chorti village. These are Mayan descendants. They are round-faced, straight-haired, Indian-looking, dirt poor but cheerful. Their homes are mud and thatch. We reach them down a track which only a donkey or a four-wheeler could negotiate. Not much in their material lives has changed since Mayan times, I guess. Except for Coca-Cola, a tepid bottle of which I buy.

**N**ext I travelled to a rainforest by the Cuero y Salado park, on the oldest railway I have ever seen — a single track along which trucks (flat-bed chassis) are propelled by small boys. On the way out they walk or run as they push, and on the way back they stand on the trucks and use poles to punt themselves along. If they are lucky they may hitch their wagons to the Standard Fruit company's engine.

There are two ways to look at any rainforest. One is to see it as a jungle: rotten, putrid, decaying. The other is to see it as a place of near-miraculous energy and invention where the death of one animal or plant is the opportunity for another. Looked at like this the jungle comes marvellously alive. Every root and branch seems to throb with vitality as new life shows its way into the light. I see crocodiles, howler monkeys, iguanas, toucans, egrets, herons, turtles. There

was also the largest butterfly I

brought over from Africa to be slaves but who escaped from St Vincent 200 years ago to settle as free men in Central America. They have a thriving colony in New York and you can tell which villages have that connection: the ones with concrete houses are getting monthly cheques; those built of plants and thatch are not.

People, alas, are the chief enemy of the rainforest. How do you persuade them to stop the slash-and-burn agriculture which destroys the soil? It is not easy. One man who tries is my guide for a day, whom I shall not name. Discreetly, he carries a gun. Janett Kawas, the campaigner after whom the park is now called, was murdered only a few months earlier. Nobody has been arrested but a certain general is said to have ambitions to develop the park for his own benefit. Law and order here can sometimes seem as thin on the ground as the soil beneath

the rainforests.

I would recommend: a leisurely trip up-country to Copan for its Mayan ruins, then a few days on the coast for rivers and forests, winding up with a spell on the islands where you can be as energetic or idle as you please.

**S**o I chose idleness at the Bayman Bay Club on the island of Guanaja, while others went off for a day's diving. The fish and the corals were excellent, they said. There are no roads on the island; you go everywhere by boat or foot. The only town occupies all of a separate, tiny islet, a congenitally shabby little Caribbean Venice. At the club I had my own cabin and much sleep-inducing comfort.

I was standing at the club

bar on my first night speaking English to an American. The barman immediately demanded: "Take us back." It seems

Guanaja was once a British colony ceded to Honduras, though nobody knew when or why. Hondurans had done nothing for the island, my barman complained. They even made the children speak Spanish at school.

"Fetch me a Union Jack," I said imperiously. "I shall run it up the flagpole and take possession of the island in the name of the Queen. Then I shall telephone for the Royal Navy." But they didn't have a flag, which was a pity, because it seemed such a devilishly good idea at the time.

ERIC JACOBS

It is good to see a jungle reviving itself, as sections of the Janett Kawas national park on the Caribbean coast are now doing after being invaded for its harvest of wood. The forest is becoming dense again, the soil has been replenished, native plants are returning. But people live here too, like the Garifunas, the campaigner after whom the park is now called, was murdered only a few months earlier. Nobody has been arrested but a certain general is said to have ambitions to develop the park for his own benefit. Law and order here can sometimes seem as thin on the ground as the soil beneath

#### HONDURAS FACT FILE

■ Eric Jacobs travelled with Reef and Rainforest Tours (01803 866969). The company has several packages which mix sightseeing, adventure, sport and comfort to satisfy the bold explorer as well as the more timid sightseer. A 16-day escorted tour costs from £1,533 to include transfers, accommodation, most meals, internal flights and guided walks. International flights are excluded but range from £500-800.

■ American Airlines (0845 789789) offers daily flights to the Honduran capital of Tegucigalpa from Heathrow as well as Manchester and Birmingham, via the US, from £933.

■ Apart from Tegucigalpa, the main airports are at San Pedro Sula and La Ceiba. There is an erratic air service from La Ceiba to Utila (£15 one-way). Book locally.

■ There are sailings from La Ceiba to the Bay Islands several times a week, a two-hour crossing. Fares about £4 one-way.

■ The Utila Reef Resort has a £500 package to include eight nights' accommodation, three meals and three boat dives a day. Reservations can be made through an office in Louisiana (001 318 893 5488).

■ Almost all lodgings on Utila are within five minutes' walk from the quay. Ask for a room with a fan; expect frequent power cuts.

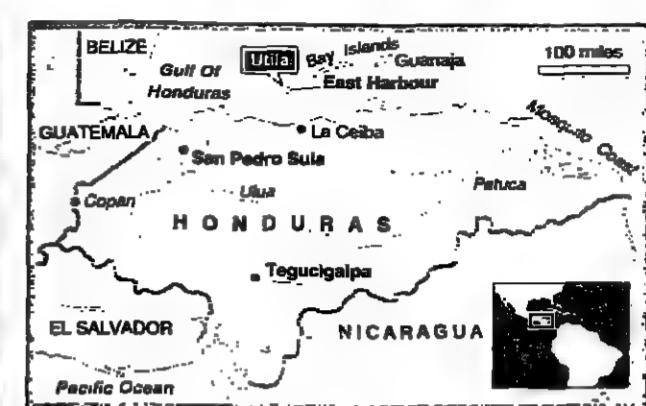
■ Honduras is driest from December to April; the wettest months are August and September.

■ No visa is required for British passport holders.

■ Vaccinations for yellow fever, cholera, typhoid and malaria are recommended.

■ The currency is the lempira, (12 to the dollar). Other currencies, except those of Guatemala and Salvador, are hard to change.

■ Reading: The Travel Bookshop (0171-229 5260) recommends *Incidents of Travel in Central America, Chiapas and Yucatan* by John L. Stephens. (Dover, Vol 1 £9.95, Vol 2 £8.95). *Mosquito Coast*, by Paul Theroux (Penguin, £6.99). *Honduras* (Ulysses, £11.50).



## Fighting talk and smiles

**E**ast Harbour, the only town on the tiny Caribbean island of Utila, is enjoying a hot, quiet day. It is always a quiet day. A handful of children chase one another on wobbly old bicycles — little black girls with big orange bows in their hair and little pale-skinned white boys with red hair and freckles.

They cycle past the single wharf, where the rusty bulk of Utila's cargo boat and only ferry slowly being unloaded. An elderly white couple, watching for nothing in particular, sit in the shade of their veranda. East Harbour is the only town on the island and you can walk around it in about ten minutes. Officially, Utila belongs to Honduras. But this predominantly English-speaking island is more a part of the West Indies than Latin America.

Most visitors come for the scuba diving claimed to be the cheapest in the world. Some spend months on Utila, working through the range of diving qualifications and financing themselves by helping in one of the dive shops. Utila lies at the southern end of the world's second largest coral reef. As well as coral and marine life, divers explore wrecks of English pirate ships and Spanish galleons sunk in the days of the Spanish Main. A few bars near the waterfront support a small "apres-dive" scene, full of people trading tall stories of the deep. Locals hang out in the Bucket of Blood bar — named, one hopes, in honour of the island's swashbuckling past, not one of the drinks.

The island's 1,500 inhabitants include black West Indians, Garifuna, mestizos (Honduran mainlanders of mixed Latin and Indian origins) and whites. Most of the blacks are English-speaking West Indians, the great-grandchildren of African slaves and plantation workers. The Garifuna are descended from escaped African slaves who intermarried with local Carib Indians after their ship sank off the island of St Vincent. Establishing fishing communities on the Bay Islands and the mainland coast, they have developed a separate culture and language which mixes Spanish with strong African roots.

British settlers came here from Grand Cayman in 1830. But many claim descent from earlier buccaneers, who used the Bay Islands as bases from which to attack Spanish vessels laden with gold from the Americas. Most notorious of these was Captain Henry Morgan.

Most whites on Utila also seem to be called Morgan, including the leather-skinned ferry owner. This contemporary Captain Morgan informed us that the islanders were British. "We've spent 300 years fighting the Spanish devils, and we're still ready to kick their backsides any time," he announced.

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From keeping cash safe to coping with culture shock, Tom Griffiths offers a way through the travel maze...

# Top fifty tips for a great gap year

AS another academic year ends, thousands of students are starting to plan their gap year — the year off between school and university or before they start earning a living. Armed with rucksacks and their Lonely Planet and Rough Guides, they will travel the world, usually on a shoestring budget. The hints below should make it easier.

## BOOKING

1. **Where to go?** Pick up loads of brochures today from your travel agent, and get a feel for the places that you would like to visit. Dream a while, and start to get excited. By the time that Monday comes, you should have an idea about where you'd like to go. Then make a date to see the travel agent.

2. **Speak your mind.** Chat to the travel agent on the phone and decide where you *really* want to go. This is especially true if you are with a travelling companion. It is your trip too. Not too keen on a certain country? Say so.

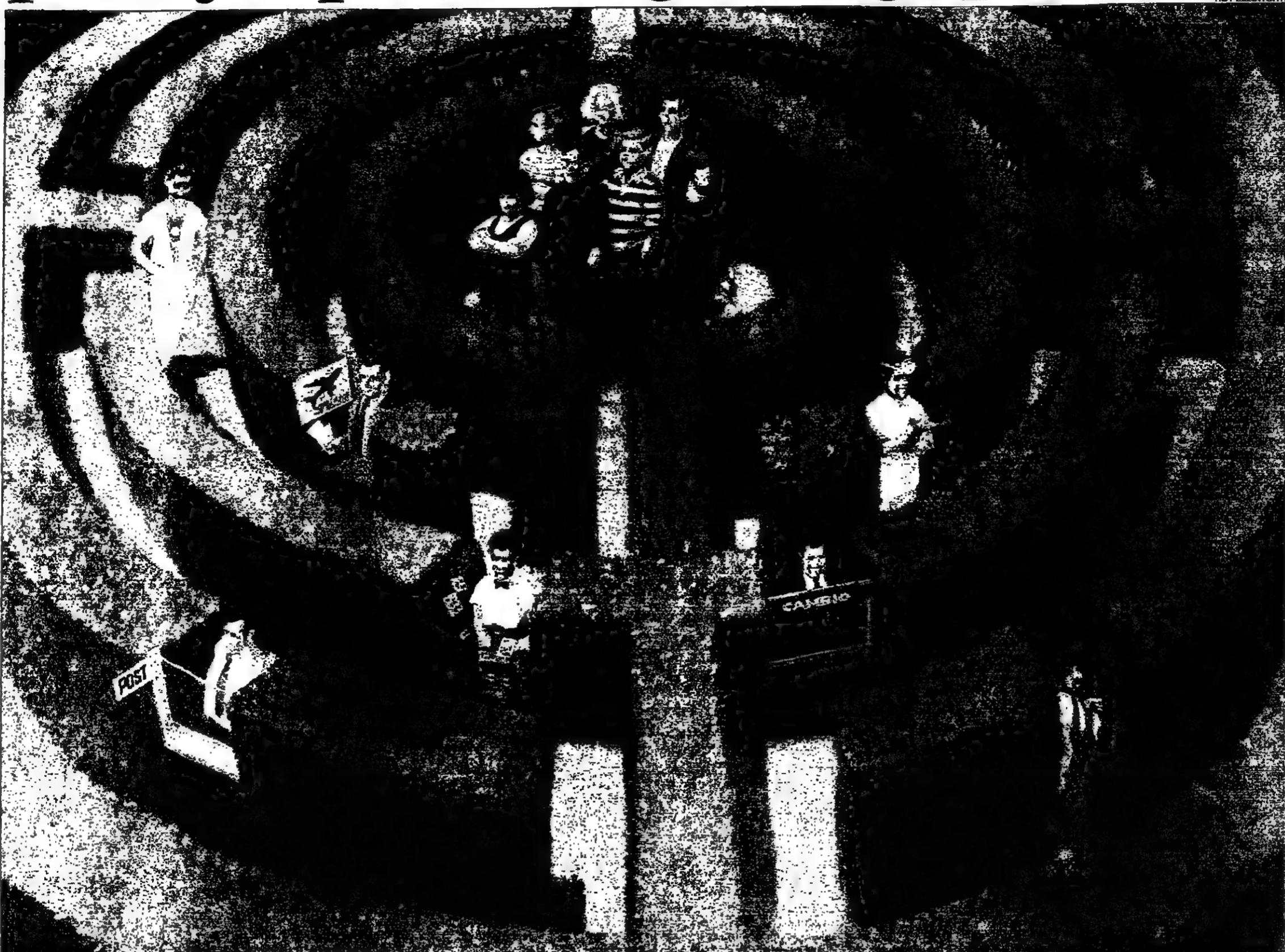
3. **Do your research.** Before you go to the travel agent, find out about the countries you want to see and what is there. There is no point in landing in a country just to fly out again.

4. **Book early.** This gives you a date to aim for, which means you can start to budget and organise your time. It also gives you no option but to get on with it all and go. Bite the bullet, book it ... there's no backing out now.

## PACKING

5. **Buy a backpack.** Make sure you test it out first. You need a good one. You can't afford for it to fall apart. Shop around, and ask for the assistant's advice on how to pack it. Put heavy things in, and test it for comfort.

6. **Pack light.** Leave home with a half-empty backpack if possible. If you have to ask yourself, "Do I really need this?", then you probably don't. You will soon fill your



pack up on the way round the world.

7. **Think cotton.** If you are going to hot countries, then the mantra "think light, think cotton" should be in your head. Cotton is not bulky, it's cool to wear and quick to dry. Take the bare minimum of clothes. You can always wait and see what everyone else is

wearing out there, and then buy the same. The chances are it will be cheaper.

8. **Don't forget a sarong.** Yes, it's a bit of a cliché, even you. It is not just a

skirt. It can also be used as a towel, a drying-up cloth, a cover for your legs when entering temples, a headscarf, a sheet, and a wrap ... Again, you will find it is cheaper to buy one overseas.

9. **Well-known and effective way of getting letters to travellers overseas.** If I know, for example, that Tim will be in Sydney in May, I address the envelope as: "Tim Jones, Post Restante, GPO, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia." The letter will go to the Sydney GPO where it will wait for about a month for collection. To pick it up, Tim goes along with his passport as ID. This system works well, and in some countries it will sit there for about six months for collection. Remember to put your own address on the back so that if it is not collected, it will be returned.

10. **Postcards.** As with telephone calls and letters, beware of sending them regularly because one may get lost on the way, causing anxiety. Putting them in envelopes ensures that they get there.

11. **Change of plans.** Make sure that you inform your parents and anyone else who may worry back home. It will save problems.

12. **Couples, beware.** See previous point for further details. Travelling can be a disaster for relationships. Think carefully, as many couples break up in the middle of a trip. However, if it is a strong relationship, it is an excellent way of seeing the world.

13. **Are your budgets similar?** There is nothing worse than tasting the delights of crocodile steak blended with excellent local wine, washed down with exquisite desserts and liqueurs while your friend ploughs through their sixth omelette and glass of water of the week.

14. **Be confident.** Look as if you know where you are going, even if hopelessly lost. This will be something that you will acquire with experience. Blokes also take note.

15. **Tampons.** Make sure you stock up, especially in less developed countries, as they are often expensive and hard to find.

16. **Unwanted attention.** In the Middle East and Asia, you may find yourself being "admired" every two seconds by the local men, particularly if you are blonde. The tip is to cover up your hair so that you don't stick out.

17. **Get a wedding ring.** Whether you are married or not, this is one of the most essential items you can carry. You can slip it on and off to deal with each situation. NB It is not always worn on the left hand.

18. **Medical check-up.** Go at least two months before departure for all the jabs. Ask lots of questions. They will be treated in confidence, so be adult about it, and ask away.

19. **Traveler's cheques.** These are a must for them to allow you access to large funds in emergencies. This is vital if you run into trouble and have to get yourself home or out of a situation straight away. Credit cards also have bonuses such as emergency numbers and the power of the huge companies behind them. They will move mountains to help you. For example, a friend of mine was very ill in India. Her friend rang the emergency number and, before she knew it, she was back in a hospital in Britain.

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all the cheap prices — just buy the clothes you need.

51. **Finances.** Having booked your ticket, get your calculator out. I know this is boring, but you need a budget to work with. Smoking and going out both eat into your crucial reserves, which will be spent on that tropical island.

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... plus the best books on foreign employment, where to find an exciting project and a parent's perspective

## Student travel specialists provide the best deals

The student travel market originated in Australasia. Whereas in this country would-be students were encouraged to go straight to university, and graduates told to go straight to work, the Australians and New Zealanders were told to pursue OE (Overseas Experience).

In terms of their geographical isolation, Australasians believed then, and now, that round-the-world travel is part of a well-rounded education and an all-important factor in personal development.

The idea has finally caught on in the UK, as the CBI and Institute of Directors issue positive endorsements of gap year travel, and graduate recruiters look for details of travel or travel plans from potential applicants.

The boom in gap year travel is big business for student travel specialists.

For years, the industry has remained strong enough to support several multinational student travel companies.

Leading the way are Campus Travel and STA Travel, with Italian student travel agency CT, the Canadian student travel agency Travel Cuts, and the student-oriented agencies Council Travel and Trailfinders mopping up extra business.

Campus and STA make up part of the student psyche:

expert marketing plus branches on virtually every campus in the country ensure their top spot in the student travel market place.

And, as gap year travel takes off, they are tailoring their expertise to cater for and encourage student custom.

Phil Griffiths of Campus believes the boom was bound to happen. "Long-haul travel is the area of greatest growth for us, and this is a reflection of gap year travel and a new

themselves, have learnt to think on their feet.

"It is also the only real way to get a feel for the global village — increasingly important in the business world."

Popular destinations from the UK remain Australasia and South-East Asia. More than half of all long-haul travel sold through the student agencies is to this part of the world.

Work is easy to find, and most travellers combine travelling with time on the beach and a bit of work along the way to keep funds ticking over.

The US and, to a lesser degree Canada, are dropping off dramatically as destinations. It has become almost impossible to find work there.

The only way for most students to work in America is to sign up for Camp America or BUNAC for summer camp work. Increasingly, students do this in the holidays rather than as gap year projects.

Japan, South Korea and the South American cities — especially Mexico City, Santiago in Chile and Buenos Aires — are hot spots for teaching English.

TEFL (Teaching English as a Foreign Language) certificates are becoming an almost natural progression for many students post-university.

If you are looking for something more active, outfit such as Raleigh International pro-

interest in taking time out.

Travel is a conversational currency on campus, and that has always been important. But the fact that employers have taken on the idea of OE means there's never been a better time to go.

Employers understand that travelling will bring out initiative, self-reliance and prove that students have tested

themselves, have learnt to think on their feet.

"It is also the only real way to get a feel for the global village — increasingly important in the business world."

Popular destinations from the UK remain Australasia and South-East Asia. More than half of all long-haul travel sold through the student agencies is to this part of the world.

Work is easy to find, and most travellers combine travelling with time on the beach and a bit of work along the way to keep funds ticking over.

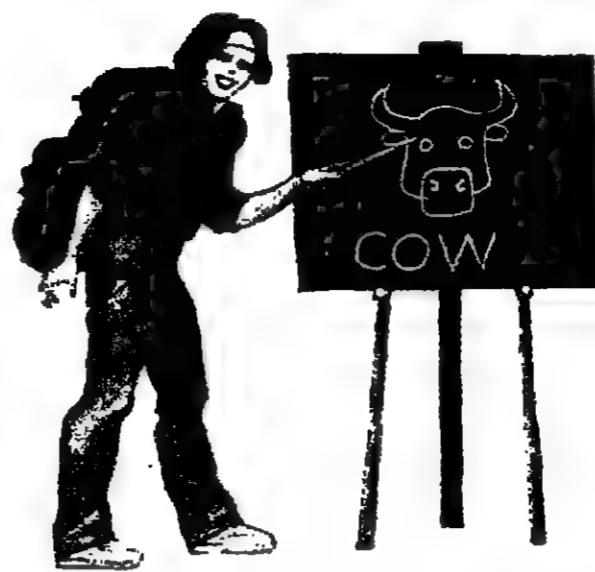
The US and, to a lesser degree Canada, are dropping off dramatically as destinations. It has become almost impossible to find work there.

The only way for most students to work in America is to sign up for Camp America or BUNAC for summer camp work. Increasingly, students do this in the holidays rather than as gap year projects.

Japan, South Korea and the South American cities — especially Mexico City, Santiago in Chile and Buenos Aires — are hot spots for teaching English.

TEFL (Teaching English as a Foreign Language) certificates are becoming an almost natural progression for many students post-university.

If you are looking for something more active, outfit such as Raleigh International pro-



vide creative projects in exotic environments. The youth development charity is running ten expeditions next year, each of ten weeks, to Namibia, Belize, Chile, China and Uganda. The theme of the expeditions is work on community projects, environment and adventure.

Andrew Osborne, head of communications, said: "Many people spend ten months working in a supermarket and go to Benidorm. That doesn't go down too well at the university entrance interview. But if you work on projects that benefit the community, it is a good selling point."

Coral Quay, similar to Raleigh International, provides work on coral reef conservation in Belize and the Philippines, with free scuba diving.

Buying a long-haul ticket or a round-the-world ticket from

a student travel specialist will always be the best method for students and graduates.

The tickets are often cheaper than bucket shop deals, and are the only ones which can be refunded, changed and reissued from over 55 countries around the world. They can also be extended should you decide to stay on a little longer.

The ISIC card, the international student identity card, qualifies students for huge travel discounts worldwide. Students, those on a gap year before college, and graduates up until the December after their graduation date can apply for the ISIC card from Campus Travel, STA Travel or from their students' union.

LOUISE CLARKE

• Campus Travel (0171-729 3422; [www.campustravel.co.uk](http://www.campustravel.co.uk)), STA Travel (0171-301 6282), Raleigh International (0171-371 8335), Coral Quay (0171-986 6248)

MADE the decision to go? Decided where? Have you got enough money? Many subsidise their journey by working abroad for a spell. SARAH ANDERSON writes through the multitude of books available that can help travellers earn while abroad.

■ Two books aimed specifically at those in their gap year are *Planning Your Gap Year* by Mark Hempshell (How To Books, £8.99), which boasts "how to have the time of your life working, studying or travelling" and *The Gap Year Guidebook 1997/98* (Peridot Press, £7.95), aimed at students, parents and schools.

■ *The Directory of Jobs and Careers Abroad*, by Jonathan Packer (Vacation Work, £10.99) is divided into three: the general approach, specific careers and worldwide employment. *The Times Educational Supplement* wrote: "No one contemplating a new job abroad should do so without consulting this comprehensive reference book."

■ *The Directory of Work and Study in Developing Countries*, by Toby Milner (Vacation Work, £8.99), is also divided into three sections: work, voluntary work and study. It lists 400 organisations in over 100 countries.

■ *How to Books* publishes *How to Get a Job*

*How to Study Abroad*, edited by Teresa Tinsley (How To Books, £8.99), is packed with information.

■ Books aimed at more specific occupations include *Kibbutz Volunteer* (Vacation Work, £7.99) and *Working with the Environment*, by Tim Ryder (Vacation Work, £9.99), which lists work involving the natural environment, paid and voluntary. *Teaching English Abroad*, by Susan Griffith (Vacation Work, £9.99), includes a directory of 275 TEFL courses.

■ *Adventure Holidays Worldwide*, by James Ogilvie (In Print Publishing, £10.99), covers 60 countries with 20 adventure activities.

■ *Working Holidays Abroad*, by Mark Hempshell (Kuperard, £7.95), gives a country-by-country directory, addresses of embassies and warns about the dangers of travelling.

■ *Summer Jobs Abroad 1997*, by David Woodworth (Vacation Work, £7.99), says it includes everything you need to land a summer job. Vacation Work also publishes *Directory of Summer Jobs in Britain* (£7.99). *Work Your Way Around the World*, by Susan Griffith (Vacation Work, £10.99) tells you how to travel, then lists jobs, country-by-country advice on visas, tax and special schemes worldwide. If you want to study rather than work,

■ There are guides for specific countries *Live and Work in the USA and Canada/Australia and New Zealand/Scandinavia* — all by Victoria Pybus and priced £8.95 from Vacation Work. Also, *Working in Japan*, by Jonathan Hayter (How To Books, £10.99).

■ The author is the founder of The Travel Bookshop (0171-239 5200) in London, W1.

## The agony of watching them flee the nest

IT WAS early January, and the mothers of north London were suffering. They had seen their sons and daughters through GCSEs and A levels, but the ordeal they faced now was of a completely different order. They had my genuine sympathy.

Any day now their "children", all over 18, were off on their gap year to India, Africa, Australia and New Zealand or other parts of the shrinking world. The point of the gap year, after all, is to be an adventure after the stifling years of school.

For mothers, however, adventure spells danger — and the parting at

Heathrow is a wrench. It is the moment, finally, when their children fly away into adulthood. It was exactly 100 days later when I met my daughter in Cairns in Australia after she had travelled and worked in New Zealand, Fiji and Australia.

She was already a different, more confident and more adult person. She had endured sheer fright (on the plane leaving Heathrow), loneliness (staying with 24 hours at Bangkok airport and then arriving in New Zealand alone and knowing nobody), danger (but best not let mother know), days of boredom and days of

exhilaration, experienced utterly different climates and cultures, and had met and travelled with fellow students from all over the world. Above all, she says, it was also a lot of fun — "singing at the top of our voices at midnight with only the birds to hear us". That was on an island of the Queensland coast.

MY DAUGHTER was glad she had organised a safety net of several conservation volunteer projects in all three countries before she left. Doing nothing but travel for four months can become boring.

The projects offered work — driving tractors through forests, weeding walking trails — an opportunity to make friends and to get to know the countries through their people, as well as the certainty of food and accommodation booked in advance. When the son of a friend was going for his Oxford interview, he was advised against saying he wanted a gap year if the tutors accepted him for the coming autumn but not a year later. He ignored the advice but was accepted.

Oxford dows obviously prefer to teach undergraduates with the extra

maturity gained from roughing it around the world and learning to cope with danger and panic and loneliness without any help from mummy and daddy.

But shed a tear for those mothers when you see them at the airport in the new year.

• Most useful tip: give your son or daughter a credit card (with a cash limit) for use in emergencies or the occasional luxury, such as a bath or new pair of jeans.

BRIAN MACARTHUR

Continued from page 18

### FLIGHTS

33. Confirming flights. Do this even if you don't have to. If it is delayed, you will be able to go off and do other things.

34. Checking in. It is a requirement to arrive at the airport two hours before the flight leaves. Moreover, you may find that the flight is overbooked, and that you can offer up your seat and be well compensated.

35. Ask for everything. Smoking or non-smoking, vegetarian meals, window or aisle seats, extra food if you are hungry. If you are polite, you get most things.

36. Long flights. If it is empty, ask for a central seat within viewing distance of the video screen. By doing this, you can stretch out over the four seats and have a good sleep.

### SECURITY

37. Padlocks. Buy them to secure your backpack. You may even take a small, light chain, so that you can padlock your bag to immovable objects. This won't stop the serious thieves, but it acts as a deterrent to the opportunists.

38. Being mugged. This happens to a lot of people, including myself. Assess each situation as it happens, and react as you see fit. However, always ask yourself "is my life worth the money in my pocket?" I doubt it. It will all be over in seconds, and you will be OK as long as you stay calm. Remember that once it's over, you'll never see them again in your life. Then forget about it and learn from it.



### MISCELLANEOUS

41. Duplication. Photocopy all important documents, for example passport, insurance, tickets, credit cards, travellers' cheque numbers, medical certificates and school qualifications (handy for getting jobs). Keep copies for yourself, and give others to your parents. If there are problems, you'll soon realise how valuable this is, especially when trying to wade through bureaucracy from 20,000 miles away.

42. Sterilised needles. It is essential nowadays to have two items in your backpack. The most important is a "steri kit". This contains sterilised needles, syringes, bandages etc. In the less developed countries, if you are in need of hospital treatment you can give them the pack to use. You are therefore assured of clean equipment. It also means that you don't use up their scarce resources.

A first aid kit is the second item to take. In foreign countries, it is important to look after any cuts, grazes and infections properly. This is a good time to mention that you should not skimp on the medical insurance. At the time that you need it, you'll regret not spending the extra £30.

43. Courses. Consider taking a first-aid course and a self-defence course before you go. Both may prove invaluable, and with the former you could end up saving somebody's life.

44. Cooking. Crash courses are available free by learning with most parents, and they can be practised up to three times a day if need be.

45. Checklists. As D-Day approaches, start those lists so that you don't forget crucial last-minute items.

46. Culture shocks. Nervous about places like India, South-East Asia, etc? Don't panic. Visit these places last after warming up in more familiar countries and societies. If you have a round the world ticket, go anti-clockwise.

47. Unfamiliar countries. When arriving, have a small amount of local currency with you, since the first things you'll be using it for are buses, taxis and snacks. You will encounter problems and get swindled if you offer large notes.

48. Why am I here? Why am I here? When you finally put your bags down in the hotel or hostel, don't lie on the bed chanting this. It is just culture shock. Secure your belongings, take your important documents with you, go for a wander, and then have a beer. If you are going exploring in a country that doesn't have the same alphabet as us, ask someone at the hotel to write down where you are going, and, more importantly, where you are staying so that you can get there and back.

49. Remembering PINs. This is a useful tip, being a good way to remember PIN numbers, and have them written down at the same time. On the back of an address card, write out the letters of the alphabet from A to Z. Think of a four-letter word that you will remember and place the numbers under the corresponding letters. For example, if my PIN number were 9625, I would use BLAG, the nickname of my friend Steve, and put the numbers beneath the letters. For example:

abcde fghijklm  
2935295734266  
nopqrstuvwxyz  
4283461937416

50. Have fun! You are about to have an amazing time. Enjoy it while it lasts.

• The author's book, *Before You Go* (Quiller Press, £6.95, published June 23) offers a 10 per cent discount at Millets and a 20 per cent discount on the voice-mail service at Travellers Connections (0181-286 3065).

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Day 5 Frankfurt/Miltenberg. Explore Frankfurt and drive out to the Odenwald Forest and the Neckar River.  
Day 6 Wertheim/Germania. In Wertheim where the Main and Tauber rivers meet we will wander around the medieval centre and include a visit to the Redstone Castle.  
Day 7 Würzburg/Ochsenfurt. Morning cruise along the Main. After lunch arrive in historic Würzburg. Tour the city including the magnificent Residential Palace.  
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Rothenburg, the most perfectly preserved medieval town in Europe. Day 9 Bamberg/Nuremberg.

Cruise past wonderful scenery to Bamberg one of Germany's loveliest cities. Continue on to Nuremberg for an overnight mooring.

Day 10 Nuremberg/Berching. Explore Nuremberg on a guided tour and cruise the Main-Danube Canal to the town of Dierlan.

Day 11 Regensburg. Cruise the wonderfully scenic Altmühl Valley to Regensburg, a fascinating and beautiful medieval city. Explore this living museum with over 1200 historic buildings.

Day 12 Passau. Morning on the river. Tour the ancient fairytale Bavarian city of Passau dramatically situated at the confluence of the Inn, Ilz and Danube Rivers.

Day 13 Durnstein. Sail through Austria's beautiful Wachau valley, visiting the wine producing village of Durnstein.

## Italy: From Waterloo to the Grand Canal; plus operatic Verona, Vicenza and unpretentious Padua

Half past five in the morning might not seem a time for excitement, particularly at Waterloo station; but it was. There is always a touch of it at the start of any journey and this one was to be a trail-blazer — travel by rail from London to Venice in a day.

Until Eurostar could combine with French Railways' TGV express from Paris to Milan, the journey had to include a night on a train. Now, by catching the first Eurostar from London at 5.50am, changing to a TGV in Paris and then to an Italian State Railways express in Milan, you should reach Venice before 10pm.

Eurostar pulled out of Waterloo on time, and breakfast was served as we slid through a sleeping Orpington. The Channel passed unnoticed, and the Gare du Nord was reached at 10.14am local time. The TGV for Milan was to leave at 11.18am from the Gare de l'Est, and the easiest way there was by RER underground train (Line D) deep below the Gare du Nord. It took 20 minutes, platform to platform.

The TGV journey seemed long — and at six and a half hours it was —

despite the high speed and smooth running. Arriving in Milan at 5.50pm, there was to be a wait for our inter-city express (and reserved seats) of an hour and a quarter, but an ordinary train was leaving for Venice in 15 minutes and we took that instead. So, at 9.30pm we walked down the station steps to the Grand Canal and boarded a vaporetto for our destination at San Marco, reached by 10pm.

It had been a long day's travelling. From armchairs we had seen the hop fields and orchards of Kent, the sweeping farmland and war cemeteries of northern France; Paris; the woods, hills and vineyards on the way to Lyons, Chambéry, the Alps and the Matterhorn; then out of the mountains and on to the plains, through Turin to Milan; Lake Garda running deep and blue into the misty mountains; then the list of resonant place-names: Brescia, Verona, Vicenza, Padua and, finally, Venice.



Go from Waterloo at dawn to the sparkling Grand Canal at night

The return journey to London — also within a day — was even easier than outward-bound. Of course, the alarm clock had to be set for 4.30am so as to be on the landing-stage ready for the vaporetto. This was the most enchanted half-hour



of the entire journey: the sky lightening behind the dome of the Salute; the boat gliding up an empty, silken Grand Canal; a brilliant moon hanging over Lord Byron's palace.

The Milan express left at 5.52am

### FACT FILE

■ The author travelled as guest of French Railways, Cimbra and Italian State Railways.

■ The Rail Shop (0990 300 003) sells Eurostar to Paris from £77.50 return for standard class or £132.50 one-way in first class. The one-way Paris to Venice fare is £73.30 or £115 in first (double for return fares).

■ The Travel Bookshop (0171-229 5260) recommends: *Venice*, by Jan Morris (Faber, £9.99) (Penguin, £6.99).

and arrived as planned at 8.55am, with 15 minutes to spare before the TGV left for Paris. Reaching the Gare de l'Est at 3.50pm, taking the RER to the Gare du Nord, we boarded the 5.10 Eurostar to London. This arrived at Waterloo

on time at 7.39pm local time and we were home by 8pm.

Like the first train ride under the Channel or any intercontinental flight, the extent of the journey was difficult to comprehend. It would be stretching acceptable meal-times to claim we had had breakfast in London and dinner in Venice, or vice versa, without taking to sea or air, but that was the feel of it.

Food is, in fact, an area in which the journey could be improved. On Eurostar, complimentary airline-type meals with wine are served in first class. Dinner on the return journey — pâté de foie gras, poached salmon in lentils with chips of bacon, chocolate gateau — was up to business-class standards in the air but the outward-bound breakfast of scrambled eggs with smoked salmon, rosti potatoes and mushrooms tasted as it should but was coloured in shades of grey.

On an evening or luncheon Eurostar from Paris to London it is

worth travelling standard class and taking a picnic gathered from a charcuterie and a pâtisserie with a bottle of wine.

The Paris-Milan TGV serves food and drink from a small, often crowded buffet car, but standards are not as good as the efficiency and manners of the staff. On the outward journey, our microwave chicken and fish dishes were visually identical.

On the long Paris-Milan leg of the journey, reserved first-class seats are worth the expense, even though they induce sleeping through a beautiful landscape. There is none of the scrambling through airports and into cross-Channel ferries, but there are two transfers. Yet, so punctual were all the trains we travelled on, that the risk of missing a connection seems minimal.

The enticement of the journey for those who love rail travel is to walk into Waterloo from the streets of London and, on the same day, walk out of Santa Lucia to see the lights sparkling on the Grand Canal.

TOM POCOCK

## ... and a drink with Dante

More than an uncertain note was in the air as the mid-evening sky descended to a fortissimo rumble above Verona's massive amphitheatre. Some 16,000 people stirred anxiously: would we see the end of Verdi's *Nabucco*?

For one glorious moment a shaft of lightning lit up every face on stage and then, to the strains of the haunting *Va Pensiero* chorus, the rain came bucketing down. Sadly, that was it for the opera that night. Never mind. Blighted opera performances happen worldwide and usually without the compensations of a city like Verona.

The Romans established Verona as an important strategic centre by the 1st century BC, and the number of remaining bridges, arches, gates and statues is second only to Rome.

The legacy of Roman town planning has survived as a compact grid-plan of streets, squares and markets. These in turn have been enhanced with, it seems, the best bequests of passing ages, from the huge



imprints of fossilised shellfish in the creamy-pink marble road slabs, to the massive 14th-century crenellated Castelvecchio of the della Scala family. Dotted around are palaces attributed to Verona's 16th-century architectural genius, Michele Samicheli, whose huge Porta Nuova marks the southern entrance.

Historical Italian liveliness abounds in Piazza delle Erbe, site of the Roman forum, where the market stalls are covered by giant canvas parasols and the trading is overseen by statues on top of the square's 17th-century Palazzo Maffei.

But to find the spirit of



The amphitheatre of Verona, where the number of remaining bridges, arches and statues is second only to Rome

prospers from its marble and wine industries and does not need to bend over backwards for tourist income. Hotels are not numerous, and I had trouble finding a decent postcard.

So it is an easy decision to

move on from Verona, and to Vicenza. Vicenza is the Veneto's hub of affluence with the palaces and "temple villas" of Palladio dominating the city. For the non-architectural eye, viewing the villas built for the gentry of yesteryear is not unlike upmarket house-hunting, when money is no object and you are looking for the one that makes you say "that's it".

It will probably be the perfectly proportioned Villa Rotonda. Surrounded by enormous silent fields, this is a monument to the ideal of marrying classical symmetry to the theatre of nature.

In other buildings, too, notably the Teatro Olimpico, there is a palpable sense that Vicenza bloomed in an age when elegant living was at its height. How appropriate, then, that Vicenza is called the "Venice of

the dry land": this is museum-quality countryside.

Travelling on through Valpolicella country to Padua is a journey into the heart of Dante's world. To this day, his direct descendant, Count Serego Alighieri, lives and produces wine on the farm bought by Dante's son.

U pkeep on La Foresteria estate is high, so a part-conversion to holiday apartments was an inevitable. The count admits there is no longer a great writer in the family, "but there is poetry in our wine".

In Padua, the streets were lively with a blend of good-tempered shoppers, tourists and students. The students, at

one of Europe's oldest universities, were celebrating graduation, "some of them pretty mad and dangerous, too", our young guide sniffed. Watching one man hop round the courtyard with hand and foot tied behind him while being beaten with sticks, I thought she had a point.

What I loved about Padua was its lack of pretension. Here is a town that has much to shout about but is reticent about its reputation. In spite of this, it has a huge basilica drawing pilgrims worldwide to St Anthony's tomb, the Piazzetta Pedrocchi coffee shop, formerly a famous meeting-place for academics, and the square described as a meadow with no grass, although it is the second largest



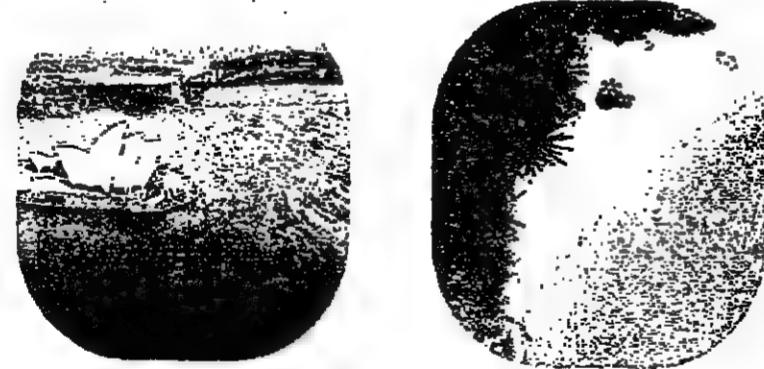
in Europe (after Red Square). Without hesitation, however, I nominate the little Scrovegni Chapel as the jewel in Padua's crown. This simple, rectangular building is home to a stunning array of 38 Giotto frescoes depicting the lives of Christ and the Virgin Mary against a dazzling blue background. This is a wonder not to be missed.

A brief trip round the Veneto produces many memories to bring back, even if they are clipped short by the mechanics of getting the return flight. The luxury option is to meander home on the Venice-Simplon Orient Express, gazing on views of the Alps.

The 1920s French and English carriages are full of beautifully restored period detail — Lalique glass, brass fittings, walnut panelling and art deco marquetry. This is a country house on wheels, and after 30 hours of being cosseted, it was a wrench to leave. I could understand why a trio of Nottingham ladies were on their third trip.

THERESA GORDON DUFFY

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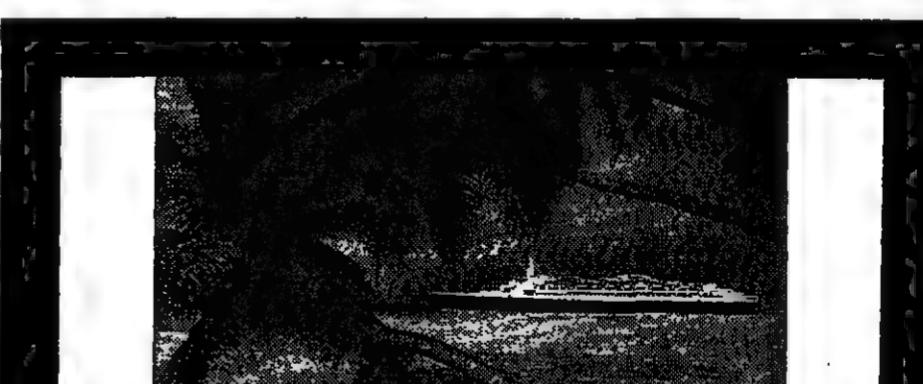
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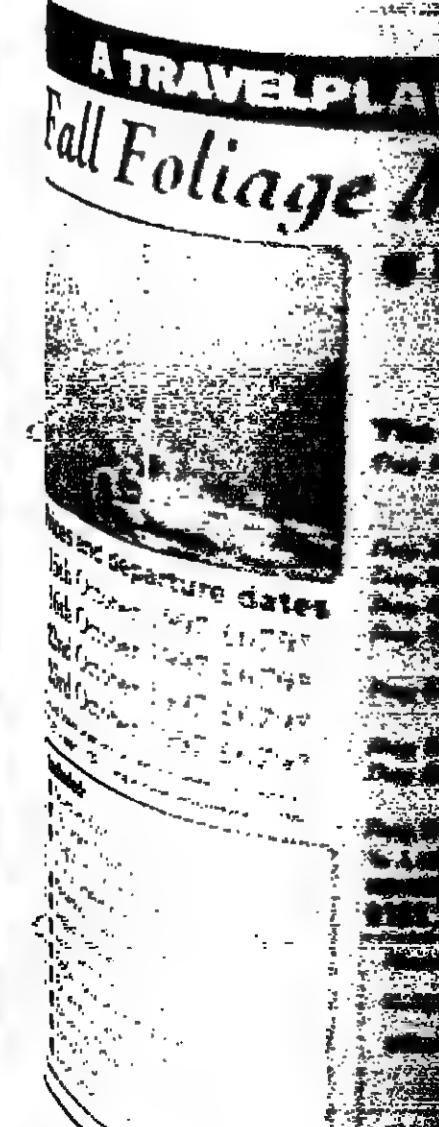
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## Problems with meal deals in the air

From Dr Shera Chok, London E14

In April, I flew to Jamaica on an Airtrours Sundeal holiday, which featured pre-ordered meals and pre-bookable seats. My companion had ordered from a menu selection, and we paid an extra £20 for the privilege.

Unfortunately, none of the pre-ordered meals were available, and we were served two light meals on a journey that lasted 12 hours, two small cups of tea or coffee and one soft drink which, I feel, is medically insufficient.

Regular servings of water or a water fountain were not present. Also, pre-bookable seats simply means being sat together, which is standard on most flights. It appears that many passengers are paying extra for no apparent extra services.

A spokesman for Airtrours replies:

"Pre-bookable meals, with a choice of 13 menus, are available on flights leaving the UK after 9.29am. This flight was at 8am and breakfast was served, followed by a lunch of salad, pasta and meatballs. The choice of 13 menus was available on the return flight. Dr Chok should have been informed of this at the time of the booking and we are concerned he was misled. We are contacting him and will refund the £20."

From F. Paul Taylor, Frodsham, Warrington:

You report that one can expect a foreign exchange transaction by credit card to cost 1-2 per cent. I recently paid a US travel company just over \$3,300 by GM card. The difference between the sterling equivalent as shown by the London sterling/dollar rate on that day, and the amount I was charged was more than £125, a massive 6.73 per cent. Perhaps it is not only hotels that overcharge. Buyer beware!

From Jane Vernon, London SW1

In reference to the letter "Singles get an unfair deal" (Weekend, April 26), which rightfully complained about the single-room supplement which many of us think is iniquitous. May I point Ms Simmons in the direction of an organisation called Single Travellers' Action Group (STAG), Church Lane, Sharnbrook, Bedford MK44 1HR, which has been lobbying various bodies on this problem.

We welcome letters on holiday travel. Send them to Letters, Travel Department, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN or fax 0171-762 5124.

## Venezuelan wildlife

REF and Rainforest Tours (01803 866969) is expanding its programme to Venezuela, attracted by the wildlife potential of its varied habitat. The vast Llanos flatlands play host to more than 250 bird species, giant anteaters, red howler monkeys, manatees, ocelot, jaguar and puma, while the Amazon rainforest is haven for other exotic flora and fauna.

Tailor-made itineraries include Angel Falls, the world's highest waterfall, and diving off Los Roques, an archipelago of 50 largely uninhabited islands: 17-day tours cost from about £1,800 excluding flights to Caracas.

If you want to witness the September marriage market at Imilchil in Morocco's Atlas Mountains, now as much of a tourist attraction as a tribal custom, Cadogan Holidays (01703 332661) is organising two-night "festival packages" from Casablanca, from September 19-21. Traditionally, the festival celebrates the mass marriage of young Berber couples with lively dancing and music. A week's B&B with Cadogan, based in Casablanca, costs £408. A week's B&B with Cadogan, based in Casablanca, costs £408. A week's B&B with Cadogan, based in Casablanca, costs £408.

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Regular servings of water or a water fountain were not present. Also, pre-bookable seats simply means being sat together, which is standard on most flights. It appears that many passengers are paying extra for no apparent extra services.

A spokesman for Airtrours replies:

"Pre-bookable meals, with a choice of 13 menus, are available on flights leaving the UK after 9.29am. This flight was at 8am and breakfast was served, followed by a lunch of salad, pasta and meatballs. The choice of 13 menus was available on the return flight. Dr Chok should have been informed of this at the time of the booking and we are concerned he was misled. We are contacting him and will refund the £20."

From F. Paul Taylor, Frodsham, Warrington:

You report that one can expect a foreign exchange transaction by credit card to cost 1-2 per cent. I recently paid a US travel company just over \$3,300 by GM card. The difference between the sterling equivalent as shown by the London sterling/dollar rate on that day, and the amount I was charged was more than £125, a massive 6.73 per cent. Perhaps it is not only hotels that overcharge. Buyer beware!

From Jane Vernon, London SW1

In reference to the letter "Singles get an unfair deal" (Weekend, April 26), which rightfully complained about the single-room supplement which many of us think is iniquitous. May I point Ms Simmons in the direction of an organisation called Single Travellers' Action Group (STAG), Church Lane, Sharnbrook, Bedford MK44 1HR, which has been lobbying various bodies on this problem.

We welcome letters on holiday travel. Send them to Letters, Travel Department, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN or fax 0171-762 5124.

include visits to South Africa, Australia, New Zealand and South America.

A two-week New Zealand trip, led by the expert Margaret Harvey, takes in both North and South Island, with tastings and lunches at wineries such as Cloudy Bay, Martinborough, Te Mata and Stonyridge. The price is £2,949 half-board, including flights. A two-week tour to Chile and Argentina crosses the Andes and goes off the beaten track in search of the best produce of these emerging wine countries.

## Hostels in Oz

BUDGET travellers will welcome the series of City Discovery Packages — short breaks in Sydney, Cairns, Melbourne, Perth, Darwin and Adelaide.

At Sydney's new YHA, the world's largest, a three-night stay with breakfast costs £90 including transfer from the airport, a £5 phone card, a month's mail and messenger service and a Sydney information pack. A similar stay in the new YHA Darwin hostel, with swimming pool and air conditioning, costs £80 and includes a day's tour of the Litchfield National Park.

NEW WORLD wine tours

from Arblaster & Clarke (01730 893344) next winter will

include visits to South Africa, Australia, New Zealand and South America.

A two-week New Zealand trip, led by the expert Margaret Harvey, takes in both North and South Island, with tastings and lunches at wineries such as Cloudy Bay, Martinborough, Te Mata and Stonyridge. The price is £2,949 half-board, including flights. A two-week tour to Chile and Argentina crosses the Andes and goes off the beaten track in search of the best produce of these emerging wine countries.

## Viennese fun

A NEW brochure, "Vienna Holiday Scene", free from the Austrian National Tourist Office (0171-629 0461) is aimed at families with children. The youngsters can travel free on public transport from June

28-August 31, and even stay free in the hotels listed.

At the four-star Jager, the price

for a room for two adults and two children under 12 is £77 a night, in a two-star pension £40 a night. Attractions in Austria's capital for the younger set include the Maria-Therea Theatre, the Butterfly House, the Teddy Bear Museum and the Doll and Toy Museum. The 100-year-old Ferris wheel provides a dramatic view of the city, while the Prater in the summer months is a huge amusement park with merry-go-rounds, ghost trains and stalls.

POTENTIAL chalet girls (age 16-20) looking for skiing jobs this winter can join one of the £200, five-day Chalet Representatives Cookery Courses

run by Crystal Holidays during August at the Brunton School for Girls.

The successful candidates will receive a diploma which guarantees a job as a chalet representative for the coming ski season. For details, write to:

Crystal, Arlington Road, Surbiton, Surrey KT6 6BW

for a week includes flights, ship-board evening voyages and tickets for the golf.

MIDNIGHT sun flights

between London Heathrow and Tromso, 200 miles north of the Arctic Circle in northern Norway, are offered by the Scandinavian Travel Service (0171-559 0666) on Sundays and Thursdays between June 22 and July 31, for £159.

ideal for insomnia, flights

depart from Heathrow at 9.55pm.

On arrival at Tromso the

passengers are taken to the top of

Mount Storsteinen by cable car

for a view of the midnight sun

and an "Arctic drink", and are

given a polar certificate before

returning to London, landing at 6.05am to see the sun rise once again.

Chartered by Kingfisher Travel (0171-730 3075), the price of £2,995

for a week includes flights, ship-board evening voyages and tickets for the golf.

MIDNIGHT sun flights

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returning to London, landing at 6.05am to see the sun rise once again.

## Save a camel

ADVENTUROUS volunteers are needed for the conservation specialist. Discovery Initiatives (0171-229 9881), to help to save some of the Gobi desert's endangered species: these include snow leopards, Gobi bears and wild Bactrian camels which are down to about 300 in number.

Participants are expected to camp in local gers and travel by camel, horse and Russian Jeep. The three-week project costs £2,695 to cover flights, transport, training and full board.

IF YOU are fit enough to climb Ben Nevis or the Snowdon Horseshoe, you should be able to cope with the Carpathians. Sherpa Expeditions (0181-577 2717) combines a ten-day mountain trek in the Polish and Slovak Tatra mountains with two days each in Cracow and Prague. On the Polish side of the range you can also take a river raft trip (weather permitting), while over the border in Slovakia there is an optional ascent, for the most energetic, of the highest peak, Mount Gerlach, at 2,655 metres.

The two-week holiday costs £995 for flights, most meals, accommodation in hotels and mountain chalets, and the services of a qualified leader.

## Anti-stress

ANTI-STRESS breaks in Bavaria's Bad Mergentheim are on offer from Moswin Tours (016-271 9922). A three-night holiday costs £545 which covers flights, B&B at the Maritim Park Hotel, body wraps, massages and "make-overs" and a regional rail pass.

FREE DOM COACH passes for budget travellers are offered by Eurolines (0900 143219) with passes for 30 or 60 days' unlimited travel in Europe. The 30-day pass for the under-26s and over-60s costs £159, or £199 for others, while 60-day passes cost £199 and £249 respectively.



Fly to Morocco with Cadogan Holidays to celebrate the mass marriage of young Berber couples with dancing and music

## Croatia open for visitors

They don't like talking about the war which less than five years ago ravaged towns and villages of Croatia. Instead, the people of Dubrovnik prefer seeing tour guides taking increasing numbers of snap-happy foreigners around exquisite medieval buildings and peaceful market squares, bringing to life the history of the 1400s rather than that of the 1990s.

However, not far beneath the smiling surface all the hurt and bitterness of what happened along one of the most beautiful coastlines in Europe comes out in a torrent. It makes modern history suddenly alive — and war seem even more futile.

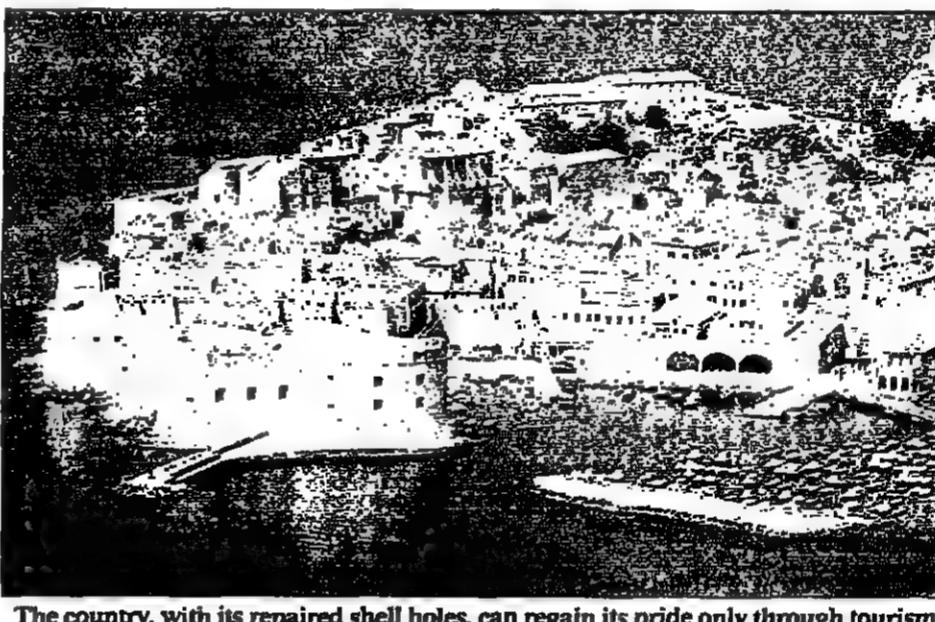
Adriana Kremensic, Danicic, for example, is one of the senior guides in Dubrovnik. She will briefly point out where shell holes have been repaired in the main street, how some roofs still show the effects of the damage caused by the 2,000 shells which fell on the old city in what appeared to be a deliberate attempt to wreck the cultural heritage of Croatia.

But it is outside the city in the villages and mountains that the madness of tribal conflict become starkly apparent. Adriana pointed out her small red-roofed home, perched high above the glittering sea about 20 miles south of Dubrovnik. She had been forced to leave it when the Serbs took over and thousands had to flee. "My husband was an air traffic controller on duty at the airport at the time," she said. "I could do nothing but run with my eight-month-old daughter. I did not see my husband for 14 months. When I returned my home had been wrecked and everything of value stolen."

She is convinced that only through tourism can Croatia regain its pride and normality.

Tourists are now returning in large numbers. Cruise ships — including P&O's *Oriana* which this month made its first visit to the Adriatic for five years — now call, and all the ancient houses and palaces of the Dubrovnik have been restored.

No wonder Paul, a colleague of Adriana, gave up his job as a doctor to become a tour guide. "I had enough of seeing maimed bodies," he said. "The war was out past. Tourism is now our future, and I want to be part of it."



The country, with its repaired shell holes, can regain its pride only through tourism

ists during the season, are still

unprepared. And, most moving

of all, thousands of vines, once

neatly tended and pro

ducing some of the region's

best wines, are now running

wild, the crosses along which

the wires once run looking like

headstones in a graveyard.

But I urge any visitor to take

that drive south towards the

idyllic town of Cavtat. On the

way, the ruins of once attrac

tive middle class houses, many

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East Anglia: Where flatlands meet the sea in a bleak combination, Nigel Colborn finds evocative music

# Sweet harmony along Britten's coastline



Saint Botolph's church at Iken has a thatched nave

**H**ow do you transpose a landscape into orchestral sounds? More to the point, how did Benjamin Britten manage, with so much of his music, to feed our ears with such detailed imagery of the Suffolk coast — of Aldeburgh, Snape, Dunwich and the lazy, muddy rivers that snake their way over the East Anglian flatlands?

Debussy had a crack at marine impressionism with *La Mer* in 1905, but in Britten's music you are actually there. In the first "Sea Interlude" from *Peter Grimes*, light shining on the silt-laden tide translates to a series of sustained notes on the violins.

The waves are small, breaking right at the edge of the water, tickling the shivering shingle — rapid trills and arpeggios from the woodwind. But this is the North Sea, a shifting, treacherous ocean with sudden changes in wind that threaten the low-lying foreshore — enter, harsh chords on trombones and other brass, introducing the underlying menace.

Britten's opera *Peter Grimes* is set in the 19th-century poet George Crabbe's town, the Borough (Aldeburgh) but throughout his music there are constant reminders of this extraordinary coastal strip between Orford and Southwold. Born in



Benjamin Britten pictured near Aldeburgh in 1970. His opera *Peter Grimes* offers constant reminders of this distinctive, wind-blown coastline

comfortably among the red brick and pantiles of the villages.

Pretty though these villages are, the landscape is neither rugged nor beautiful. Reed beds give way to slick mudflats; rivers merge with salt marshes that border the seas and in pale, diffused sunlight, it is hard to differentiate between water, land and sky. Stand on the edge of the marshes by Snape Maltings, and

for example, and the only distinguishing mark on the skyline is the tower of Iken church, seemingly marooned among the reeds.

If you follow the narrow lanes to Iken, the illusion of an unreal world is amplified. The road threads such a tortuous route through the waterlogged land that the church disappears from view and then, because you've become confused with all the turns, reappears where you least expect it, on a bluff surrounded by a sea of reeds.

The region's ancient quality is further enhanced when, on entering the church with its thatched nave, you discover that some of the fabric dates back to 654 and Saint Botolph. Curlew River is based on a Japanese Noh play, but it is clear that the river in Britten's mind was the Alde, which begins to widen into meandering estuary at Snape, where

■ Where to stay: Crown Hotel, High Street, Southwold IP18 6DP (01502 722279). Double B&B about £65. Swan Hotel, Market Square, Southwold (01502 722186). Double £95 in hotel, from £85 in B&B.

■ Eating out: Lighthouse, 77 High Street Aldeburgh (01728 453377). Cricketers, Southwold (01902 723403).

■ Aldeburgh Festival, June 13-29. Details, 01728 453343.

Snape — with its magnificent 830-seater concert hall, whose foyer has been revamped with £1.3 million of Lottery money — is home to the Aldeburgh festival and its associated activities. The festival this year runs from June 13-29, but a lot goes on through the year, from spring recitals to August Proms, and a visit in December, by the Royal Opera for a production of *Paul Bunyan*.

On the way north, towards Dunwich Heath, stonechats perch on vivid yellow gorse blossom on one side of the narrow road, opposite a vast piggery with hundreds of brood sows standing outside their farrowing arks. Nearby, Minsmere is a RSPB bird sanctuary, where about 1,600 acres was flooded in the 1940s as a counter-invasion ploy, and then left derelict. In a series of small, shallow lakes, such rare birds as avocets, marsh harriers,

curlews are two a penny.

The huge maltings, built by Newson Garrett (father of Elizabeth Garrett Anderson) in 1840, reminds us that Suffolk and Norfolk have, for centuries, produced the world's finest barley and that trade of malt across the North Sea was brisk. Nowadays,

ruffs and little ringed plover are protected from everything except glinting binoculars.

The bird sanctuary must be crossed here to reach sand dunes and foreshore. Look north, at this point, and the land rises to glacial cliffs so crumbly and unstable that it is dangerous to stand under them. Look right, and beyond the wild beauty of gorse-strewn heath and stony beaches, the hideous Sizewell



John Piper's window

nuclear plant rears up. Fanciful again, but one could not help thinking of *Peter Grimes* and his vile inner self — not a vileness of his own making, but innate of mankind, so thirsty for power as to risk self-destruction.

**O**ne underlying theme in *Grimes* is of a threatened coastline. Walk on to Dunwich and you will see how fast the cliffs are receding. The town itself has gone, mostly under the waves, and the land that the seas have snatched was thrown back along the mouth of the Alde, making Orford Ness, a vast shingle spit.

In Southwold, Britten is overshadowed by the omnipresence of the family brewing company Adnams. And if traditional, comfortable pub accommodation, delicious cuisine, and personable and efficient staff appeal, then stay at the Crown, or its posher and more pricy fellow hotel, the Swan.

Being a music lover or a Britten fan is not essential to enjoying this region. But if you go to Aldeburgh merely for the music, without exploring the scenery or at least visiting the Moat Hall on the front, or seeing the Piper Window in the church, you will find it far harder to get a grip with the Britten spirit of *Zeitgeist*.

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Another  
chance  
to enter  
Ford's  
prize draw  
Page 5

SATURDAY JUNE 7 1997

# The height of Mazda's empire



On adverts or in  
real life, Henry  
Wallace is head  
and shoulders  
above the rest  
as Ford's man  
in Hiroshima.  
A Scotsman  
crossing cultural  
barriers talks  
to Ian Morton

**H**e is accosted in the street and asked for his autograph. He is approached when doing the weekend shopping. He is acknowledged on the Bullet Train. He is recognised by customs staff at Tokyo airport and waved through while others fumble for their passports. He is Wallace-san, the Edinburgh-born master of 25,000 Japanese car workers.

As boss of Hiroshima-based Mazda, Henry Wallace is the most famous foreigner in modern Japan. The first non-Japanese to head a major company, he is a one-man commercial and cultural breakthrough, the personification of a new attitude in one of the world's most closed societies. A Scot working for Ford of Detroit directs the fate of Japan's fifth largest motor manufacturer.

If there is denied national pride, it does not show. It is not within the Japanese character to reveal such feelings. Rather, the reverse attitude is evident. Mazda publicity experts advised making a virtue of having the country's first foreign president.

**T**hey persuaded Wallace — against his own inclination, he says — to participate in a media campaign, featuring him in newspaper ads to project to local car buyers that Mazda boasts its share of the expertise that has made the Japanese motor industry so respected around the world.

"I wasn't prepared for this high profile, I don't particularly enjoy it, and it can be uncomfortable," admits this Leicester University-educated economist. "But I live with it. It comes with the job. After all, Mazda provides 40 per cent of employment here, I'm in the news a lot, and I'm easily identified. There are not many foreigners in Hiroshima, and even fewer over six feet."

Henry Daniel George Wallace, named after his mother's brothers, may be a reluctant star, but under his tutelage Mazda has accelerated out of a £250m trading loss and £3.4bn of debts three years ago into a projected current annual profit of £30m and £2.1bn of debts. How has this 52-year-old emerged as the hero of a city flattened by an atom bomb a matter of weeks before he was born? A Ford high-flyer since 1971, he started with the UK company and held increasingly senior positions in Detroit, Mexico, Germany and Venezuela before joining Mazda as an adviser in 1989.

At this time Ford, which had been trading technology with

the Japanese firm for two decades, had taken a quarter of Mazda equity. When Wallace arrived, the company was struggling with model proliferation, high internal costs and expensive niche models that had been hit by the recession. At one stage there were 140,000 unsold cars in Mazda compounds.

Wallace's double brief was to help Mazda restructure and to exploit the "strategic relationship" between the two companies by nurturing themes that would benefit both into the next century. As this process developed, it was decided that problems of American and European trade regulations forbidding the pooling of key information should be overcome by Ford's taking a controlling 33.4 per cent stake in Mazda. At the same time, Wallace was promoted representative director and president.

So far he has slimmed down the workforce from 30,000 through natural wastage and voluntary redundancies, and has instituted a stringent cost-cutting regime. Wading into the problems of a Japanese firm has been a daunting task, he admits, and the blending of two cultures into a working relationship remains a major preoccupation.

"I have a great feeling of responsibility," he says. "It's a big change for the Japanese to contemplate. I'd like to think I'm at the forefront of the breakdown of national and cultural barriers, but there is still a long way to go. It will be some time before we see another Westerner in this position."

Language is an obvious hurdle. In previous appointments, Wallace absorbed German, French and Spanish to conversational levels. Already he has enough Japanese to recognise and utilise the fact that it exists on two levels, the

defined and the implied, and he works hard at taping colloquial addresses to the workforce. They are said to respect him for that. Staff describe him as "logical, reasonable, keen to learn the facts, ready to debate in the boardroom".

"Moving from a 100 per cent

Japanese operation into multi-national corporate culture by overcoming national and cultural barriers is a kind of soft area, but it is important," he says. "Having worked internationally, I do have a certain cultural sensitivity, and you need to be flexible as long as the objective is right."

**U**nder his regime, in addition to restructuring, cost-cutting and job reductions, three proposed vehicle projects have been shelved. He considered them "high risk", the sort of cars that helped get Mazda into what Wallace describes as "a pretty rough state" three years ago, when the company was indulging in more diversification than its marketing and sales organisations could handle.

But he has not interfered with manufacturing operations, which he considers among the best. Rather, he subscribes to the Japanese theory of *kaizen* — continuous improvement — and has instituted a four-year programme to "get the Mazda operation to be the best in the world".

He already believes that the car plant at Hofu, home of the new 626 range due for its world debut in the UK in a week's time is the most advanced production facility in existence, even though it is working at only 40 per cent capacity. The 626 will boost output there, pushing Mazda total annual production from 700,000 to 800,000 this year.

By 2000, intends Wallace,

Mazda will be "robustly" financed, its debt manageable, the

mazda



お客様に、お伺いします。



MAZDA

Wallace-san advertising Mazda: publicity experts advised making a virtue of having the country's first foreign president

model line-up rational yet comprehensive, the firm's tardiness into key areas like diesel and recreational vehicles will have been rectified and new funding will be pouring into research and development.

Above all, the fruits of fuller collaboration with Ford will be coming through, with common platforms, engines and transmissions for core vehicles in those segments where the companies have mutual interests, though styling and inter-

or treatments will be "so different you would never believe it was the same platform".

By sharing development and component costs, and by exchanging best practices, both companies will "leverage

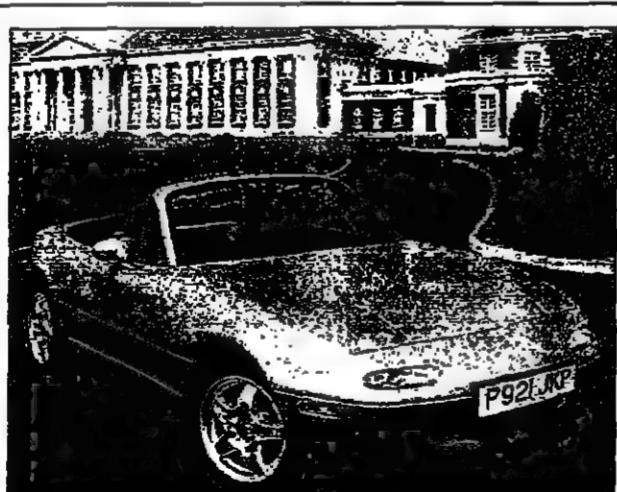
all the synergies of commonality", says Wallace, lapsing into Ford-speak. At the same time, for markets where interests do not coincide, there will be unique Mazda products.

"Independence is a critical issue. Mazda must retain a

separate identity. Although their relationship is a business strategy and joint working teams meet regularly, Ford and Mazda are and will remain competitors. They have different buyer profiles and must produce different packages focused on different customers. We will not reach the stage where we simply complement each other.

"I do not see Ford trying to stop a Mazda product. If they did, I would fight to prevent it. Ford pays my salary and I am in a Ford pension plan, but Ford also recognises my responsibilities to Mazda and we know there are going to be times when we have differences of opinion. That was made clear from the start, and knowing it has made my job here easier."

"How long will it take? There is no time limit on how long I stay here. I expect to return to Ford at some stage. Eventually I shall return to England. My children are at British universities. And I am paid not in dollars or yen, but in pounds."



The MX-5: virtually reinventing the affordable sportscar

## MODEL RELATIONSHIPS

**M**azda is best known in Britain for its MX-5, the Lotus Elan lookalike which more or less reinvented the affordable sportscar in 1989 and triggered a generation of two-seaters from a bevy of other manufacturers. The front-engined/rear-drive MX-5 has continued to sell well — last year was its best so far in the UK with 3,885 registrations.

Enthusiasts treasure the RX-7, the now discontinued supercar whose engine symbolised the faith which the company continued to place — expensively — in the rotary engine long after others had dropped it because of its thirst. However, research executives in Hiroshima quietly admit that they have not entirely abandoned the rotary concept.

The range which underlines Mazda's relationship with Ford is the i21, an expedient and barely-disguised version of the Fiesta made for Europe by Ford of Britain in Dagenham, but is saleswise no competitor here for the real thing.

Britain is Mazda's most important European market after Germany. Registrations last year were 49 per cent up on 1995, and have risen by a further third this year.



The i21 range, above, a thinly-disguised Fiesta, shows the Ford links, while the RX-7 is treasured by enthusiasts



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D for Decimal Day, widely predicted as a shambles, went smoothly. K-Day could be just as successful and would put us 'at the heart of Europe'.

## Why do we stay miles behind?

### DRIVEN TO DISTRACTION



Peter Barnard

**N**ow that the French have thrown out a government obsessed with the single currency and the German administration has had a rolicking from its central bank about rigging the value of gold reserves, we are fast heading for that happy stage when the ridiculous euro project will be put on the back burner where it belongs.

But of course the euro-fanatics will need some other issue to concern themselves with and Tony Blair will certainly find a palliative to offer his fellow heads of government at the Amsterdam summit. Problem solved, cease all head scratching: Driven to Distraction has again found an issue that can unite Europe and make Blair the toast of the Eurocrats.

Delete the euro, insert the kilometre. Nobody in Britain gives

tintinnation which gives the distance as, say, 947.

A few Brits, macho men, love that moment. They will do the trip in one go, they have spouses who will sustain them through drip feeds and mop their brows with dampened flannels: anything so that the lads back at work can hear how they broke last year's non-stop record.

The rest of us, normal people, are horrified. We cannot possibly drive a car that far, good heavens, it is further than Land's End to John o'Groats. Already the back seat Luton Girls' Choir is chorusing "How much further is it?" and "Are we nearly there?" and this is before a French customs type has receded from the rear view mirror.

Then realisation dawns: Not 947 miles, but 947 kilometres! A mere bagatelle! No distance at all! In

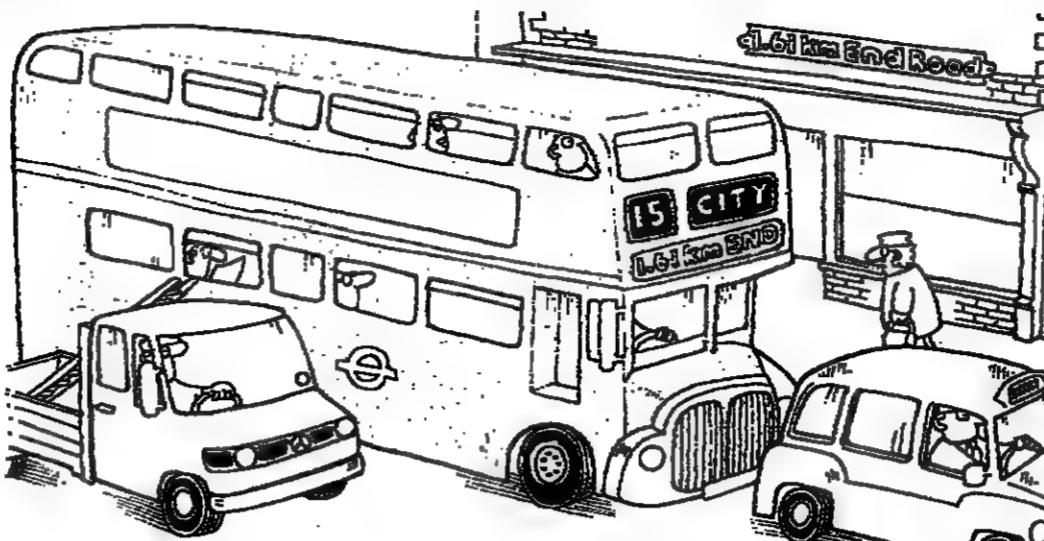
a toss about the single currency, whereas millions of people in Britain would give a lot to shrink the distance from Calais to the Dordogne. Every summer, sometimes several times a summer, we all clunk off the ferry in France to be greeted by a sign to our des-

tinyation which gives the distance as, say, 947.

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AB

real money (there I go again) 947 kilometres is just... er, hang on a minute, divide by eight, multiply by five... only 99 miles. Are we nearly there? In English we are.

I was in France last weekend to take in some decent food. We got off the ferry at Roscoff, stayed locally overnight and decided to have a look at the north-west coast

of Brittany. We went as far as it is possible without becoming amphibious and it must have taken all of an hour and a half.

Not that it would have taken any longer had the distances been signposted in miles, but the psychology of travel suggests that journeys measured in smaller units than those we are familiar

with somehow seem easier to handle. Part of the reason is that we are used to using miles, metaphorically, to indicate enormity: "The two sides are miles apart". Kilometres apart? Not the same at all.

The odd thing about obsessive European standardisation is that no one in Brussels raises the sort of

proposal most of us would happily accept. They bang on about straight bananas, but where are the kilo-sceptics and the kilo-enthusiasts? A kilo by weight we have had for years, but a kilo by distance seems, yes, miles away.

Britain went metric in the 1970s and we have taken on board every metric measure except the kilometre. Admittedly, most of us still weigh ourselves in stones and pounds, but that is a generational quirk. Even oldies have become used to metres and centimetres, so why not go the whole hog and introduce the kilometre?

The cost, you say? Estimates range from a few hundred million to £2 billion, so these can be taken with a large pinch of salt. The logistics are more daunting, because of course all our road signs would have to change at once. But the project could be phased in, with new signs being covered until the great unveiling on Kilometre Day.

D for Decimal Day, widely predicted as an expensive shambles, in fact went smoothly. K-Day could be just as successful and would put Britain "at the heart of Europe", the best position from which to fight the wilder schemes of the federalists.

## Running risks for motorists

### Kevin Eason on the problems of new pollution law

**M**otororing organisations are working fast to persuade the Government not to penalise motorists unfairly in its "green" drive to clear pollution from towns and cities.

Gavin Strang, the Transport Minister, this week signalled roadside checks and on-the-spot fines to improve air quality by penalising motorists polluting the atmosphere. But the first proposals were baffling motoring organisations, which warned they could be unworkable and do little except cause bad feeling among drivers who believed they were being targeted by over-zealous police or wardens.

Dr Strang said the measures would include fining drivers who leave their engines running while not moving — which would confront tens of thousands of drivers daily caught up in traffic jams and delays. They will now have to switch off their ignition or risk being charged with a new offence of "producing unnecessary emissions".

But who determines when the engine is running unnecessarily? The RAC warned yesterday that the offence was wide open to interpretation so that neither driver nor enforcement would be entirely sure how it would work.

tell drivers when to turn off their engines. Motorists parked temporarily are also expected to switch off.

But, apart from in Geneva, Switzerland rarely suffers the sort of stop-go traffic which would confront a driver in London every day.

RAC engineers say that switching off an older car and then restarting at traffic lights, particularly a vehicle that uses carburetors rather than fuel injection, would probably mean more pollution. Cars with catalytic converters also do not work at their most efficient unless they are "warmed up" for several minutes, so their engines might be better left running than switched off.

Volkswagen tried to sell a car in Britain — the Golf Economatic — which automatically switched off when it stopped and started up again with the application of the throttle. But it failed, and is no longer on sale.

Dr Vanke, whose RAC is now in the vanguard of the change to finding ways of sensible travel which might not include the car, adds: "There probably is no point in switching off the engine at traffic lights in any case. But if it failed, and is no longer on sale.

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Emissions: drivers stopped at lights or in traffic jams will have to switch off or risk a fine

#### POLLUTION facts and figures:

- Today's cars produce only 10 per cent of the emissions of models 20 years ago, according to the Retail Motor Industry Federation.
- Controls ordered by the European Commission mean exhaust emissions in 2000 will be half those of cars on sale today and only 3 to 5 per cent of a Seventies model.
- Fuel economy of a supermini in 1978 averaged 28mpg; it is now 40 and rising.
- Ten per cent of traffic causes 50 per cent of the pollution.
- Tailpipe emissions from a petrol engine comprise 72.9 per cent nitrogen, 14 per cent water, 13 per cent carbon dioxide and traces of carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides and hydrocarbons.

## Survivors of snow, sand and 38 punctures



Night riders of the Gobi: "We had a fantastic time and experienced things we shall never be able to repeat. I have made some wonderful friends," says Britain's Trevor Smith

### Perry Cleveland-Peck and the Camel Trophy teams complete their odyssey

**A**fter 20 days, 1,500 miles and 38 punctures, the Camel Trophy came to an end at Genghis Khan's ancient capital of Kharkorum on the central plains of Mongolia last Sunday. The UK team, Discovery, already severely punished, limped its way to the registration tent with only minutes to spare after the brake pipes to the rear wheels of the vehicle were sheared by a flying stone while crossing the Gobi desert.

The event has been marked by contrast: the incredible

changes in weather — from snowdrifts to sandstorms; the comparison between the untouched countryside and the state of exhausted and filthy team members travelling across it; the diversity of the cultures, be it of the Mongolian herdsman or of the 20 national teams taking part and the many flavours and aromas that emerged from their camptime mess tins.

But if there was contrast, there was also consistency, namely the unending team spirit of the participants. The

Turks and the Greeks, from two nations virtually at war, became the best of friends after spending 36 hours in a snowstorm buried up to their axles in permafrost. Having emerged from their snowholes they spent the rest of the following day winding their convoys travelling 100 yards apart and with all lights blazing to maintain visibility through the clouds of dust.

Meanwhile, the British

team had broken their icy camp and turned south, away from the frozen altitudes of the Hangai Nuruu mountains and in the direction of the dust and searing 30C heat of the Gobi desert. This was traditional Camel Trophy stuff — convoys travelling 100 yards apart and with all lights blazing to maintain visibility through the clouds of dust.

The lack of natural features in the Gobi made navigation increasingly difficult and teams were forced to rely on their satellite positioning devices. Many tracks simply petered out at a dried river bed and vehicles were permanently in second gear and low ratio differential lock as they chugged up sand dunes to U-turn.

Having completed a day of kayaking and orienteering tasks at the magical Orog Nuur (Taats Lake) — a huge turquoise body of fresh water surrounded by sand dunes and mountains lost in haze to the south — the teams set off on their final 250-mile drive to Kharkorum. The desert dust had caused a few eye problems and team members were pleased to find themselves on the crisp, grassy valley north of the Gobi, so reminiscent of the European Alps.

A demo happy evening campsite, a final sprint to the finish line and a morning's cycling and kayaking competitions later and participants found themselves outside the

largest Buddhist temple in Mongolia to the west of Kharkorum. Here they were told their final positions. Austria won and lifted the Camel Trophy skywards to cheers from their colleagues and showers of champagne. The UK, having dropped two places on the final day's tasks, came 15th. Although disappointed, Trevor Smith, one member of the two-man UK team, summed up the three week expedition for everyone. "We all had a fantastic time and experienced things we shall never be able to repeat. I have made some wonderful friends and it was a privilege to be selected."

While some would argue that the Camel Trophy is nothing more than a massive marketing tool to promote their adventure wear products — although there is strangely no mention of the brand's cigarettes — there is no doubt that for those who take part it is a unique adventure that will stay with them for the rest of their lives.

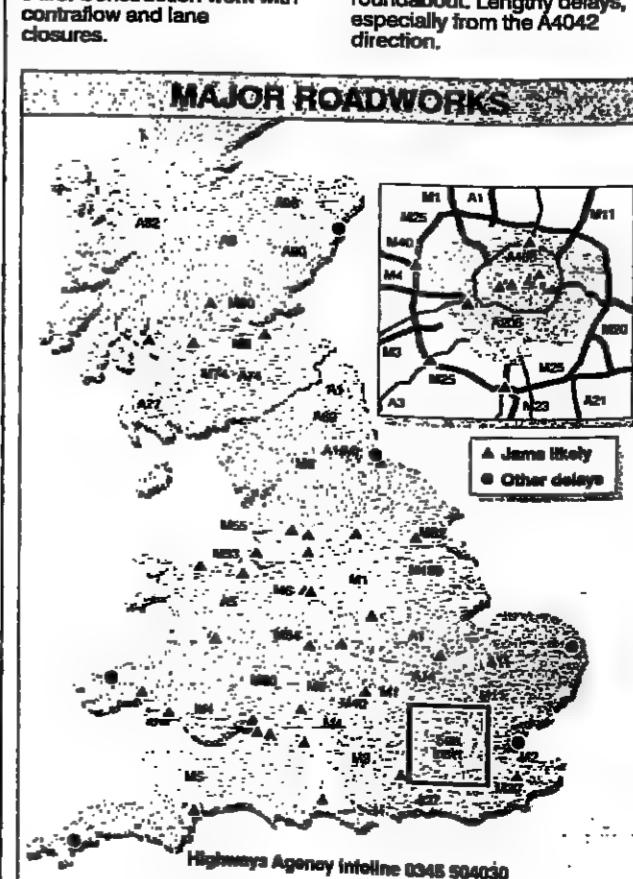
### AUTOFAX by David Long and Les Evans

**T**HE WORLD'S FIRST DRIVE-IN DISNEY FOR DOGS IS IN OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA...

**N**IGEL MANSELL IS THE ONLY DRIVER TO WIN CONSECUTIVE FORMULA ONE AND INDY-CAR CHAMPIONSHIPS...

**D**ESIGNER JOHN BLATCHLEY WANTED HIS ROLLS-ROYCE SILVER CLOUDS AND SILVER SHADOWS TO BE LIKE "FLYING DRAWING ROOMS"

**T**HE SPEED LIMIT IN ITALY IS 81 MPH, BUT DROPS TO 69 MPH WHEN IT RAINS...



When  
transported to the past by the RAC

However inexperienced, a driver can get behind the wheel of a supercar. Kevin Eason looks at the dangers

## When a test drive turns deadly



The £69,000 Viper GTS after a man who has held an advanced licence for 23 years made an error of judgment while overtaking. There are calls for tighter rules on who can drive such high-performance cars

**C**hrysler has sent warnings to its dealers to take increased care with customers wanting test drives after a potential buyer crashed one of the company's powerful Dodge Vipers.

The 43-year-old is thought to have been in the car for only a few minutes when he attempted to overtake a coach, lost control and ploughed into the £69,000 Viper GTS — one of only 17 on sale in Britain this year — into a ditch on a straight stretch of road near Fram in East Sussex. Even though the driver has held an advanced licence for 23 years, he is understood to have miscalculated the width of the massive Viper because it is left-hand drive.

Damage to the front of the car was extensive, though repairable, and both driver and salesman in the passenger seat walked away with cuts and bruises.

However, the crash sent a dramatic reminder to the car industry of what can go wrong when a driver meets a powerful car for the first time and came amid calls for the motor industry to tighten up the rules on test drivers, particularly in high-performance models.

Peter Rawlinson, spokesman at Chrysler, the Dodge importer, says: "As far as we know, the driver was doing only about 50mph when things went wrong. It was very unfortunate but one of those things and it happened to be on a test drive. He was an experienced driver and the dealer involved knew his background."

"We have taken the precaution of circulating our dealers just to remind them of the problems involved with test drives. We cannot be too careful, particularly when it involves cars like the Viper GTS which is a high-performance model and needs care and common sense. Dealers are instructed that they must strictly observe speed limits and be sensible."

But crashes on test drives have been high-profile enough to prompt the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders to issue guidance to Britain's dealers this month in an effort to avoid the sort of tragedies that have plagued the industry over the past few years.

The new rules say dealers

should see the licences of prospective customers before allowing a test drive, and wants extra training for salesmen which include grading them into "power ratings" so they earn the right to demonstrate high performance models, such as the Viper. The American-made car has a mighty eight-litre V10 engine capable of producing 575bhp — enough to fire it from rest to 60mph in 4.5 seconds and on to 177mph.

Yet, in spite of the new warnings, there are no strict legal or industry controls over who can test-drive cars as powerful as the Viper or rivals from Ferrari, Porsche, Aston Martin or Jaguar. In theory, a driver could turn up at a showroom in a Mini and expect to be able to step into a car capable of more than twice the motorway speed limit and with characteristics closer to a Formula One car than a family hatchback.

And the roll call of accidents during test drives over recent years has been lamentable:

• In April this year, insurance executive Keith Moyle was killed when he crashed an E-type Jaguar.

• The previous month, an airline pilot was involved in a crash after taking the wheel of a £69,000 Ferrari Testarossa; a Hertfordshire man was killed and a salesman injured during the test drive of a Ferrari 355; three young friends died after borrowing a Porsche 944 which clipped the kerb and crashed into a tree, and three died in mid-Wales when a Porsche salesman driving his customer crashed head-on into a Renault.

**T**here are no hard and fast rules and manufacturers rely entirely on the acumen and common sense of dealers to spot drivers who might struggle at the wheel of a difficult car. In fact, the only realistic limits are whether the dealer is willing to offer the test drive and the size of cheque potential owners are carrying. Once the car is second-hand and often out of the control of the manufacturer, there are also no rules to prevent any novice — and that could be a long-term, even safe, driver but with no experience of a specialised car — taking the wheel.



A Ferrari is retrieved from the ditch after a spectacular test drive accident; who drives such vehicles is down to dealers

As Alan Ashcroft, brother of Britain's £12 million lottery winner David, discovered last week, David bought his brother his dream car, an £80,000 Ferrari Testarossa — which boasts a 0-60mph time of about 4.5 seconds and top speed of around 175mph. Alan traded up from an E-registered Peugeot 205 hatchback — which would probably need a day-to-day calendar to regis-

ter the 0-60mph time before reaching a top speed which would only optimistically reach treble figures.

The issue is not whether the 25-year-old could control the Testarossa, with its wide haunches and fat tyres, but whether dealers or manufacturers should insist on a check on driving ability before allowing valuable and powerful cars out of their showrooms.

Porsche played a leading role in drawing up the SMMT document, but admits that it is "down to the dealer to assess the individual who wants a test drive".

However, the company does

insist on a training programme for its salesmen, which not only includes courses on high-performance driving, in conjunction with the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents, but guidance on how to assess customers when they wander in off the street wanting to take the wheel of cars easily capable of 155mph. James Pillar, the company's spokesman in Britain, says: "It is an emotive subject. We are acutely aware of what a high-performance car can do. We want customers to enjoy them, not suffer for them."

## Transported into the past by the RAC

Alan Copps on some lost patrols at the Goodwood Festival of Speed

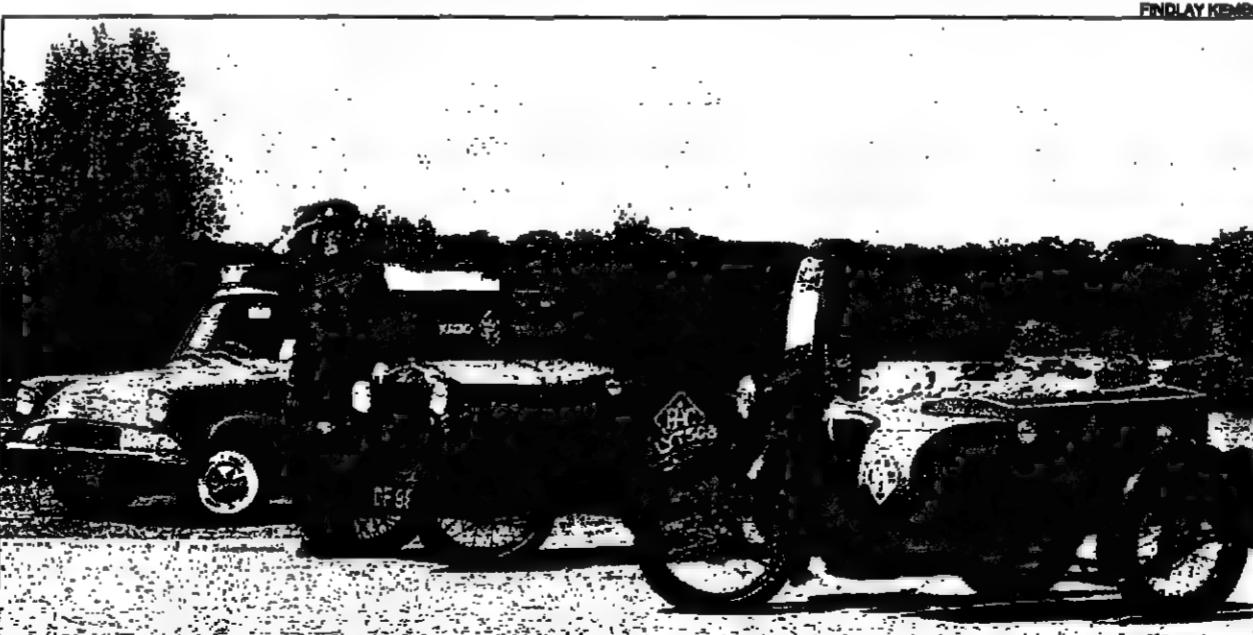
**S**waying gently along the road near Peterborough in the little Austin Chummy once used by RAC superintendents to visit roadside patrols, I couldn't help wondering what this car had to do with a Festival of Speed.

The Chummy, perfectly restored, is one of 27 vehicles illustrating the history of the Royal Automobile Club which will be on display at Goodwood during the festival from June 20-22. With the possible exception of the very latest Triumph patrol motorcycle, none was built for speed. But in its centenary year the RAC has become closely involved with presenting Goodwood's feast of historic motorsport as well as sponsoring the British Grand Prix next month, a reminder that the organisation has been the governing

body of UK motorsport for rather longer than it has been a breakdown service.

The 1929 Chummy boasted a clutch whose travel could only be measured in fractions of a millimetre and a change into third required full revs. Jumping from a modern car into this wonderful little vehicle is a potent reminder of the precarious nature of driving even as the age of mass motoring was dawning.

The vehicles range from a 1912 Phelon and Moores motorcycle through Minivans and bubble cars to the Transits and Land Rovers of today in the RAC's newly-adopted orange livery. It has been assembled in an astonishingly short time by Norman Winchester, the organisation's special projects manager. Some have already been seen at shows around



RAC Patrolman John Mitchell with, from left, Ford Anglia van, Austin Chummy and Norton sidecar combination

Britain, but Goodwood will be the first time they go on display together. Almost all were originally owned by the RAC, although some have had to undergo extensive restoration after being used for very different purposes. One or two have virtually been built from scratch.

"Some we had already but others we had to trace either through registration numbers in the archives or through photographs or just advertisements.

ing in magazines. We started last August and the finishing touches are still being put to the last few vehicles," says

Winchester.

One of the most carefully cherished is the Norton sidecar combination from the early 1950s owned by John Mitchell, an RAC patrolman for nearly 30 years. "I started with a vintage motorcycle; I've got about a dozen. I've been riding this combination to shows for some time now."

As part of the centenary

recognition. Once you carried a set of spanners and a few odds and ends such as points and condensers. Now we carry a CD-Rom which gives access to all kinds of data on every possible make of car."

"But my hobby has always been vintage motorcycles; I've got about a dozen. I've been riding this combination to shows for some time now."

As part of the centenary

match the Norton, a sharp contrast with the leathers worn by present motorcycle patrolmen. Period uniforms are being made to match each of the vehicles.

The combination rates as

one of the easier finds in the collection. The 1912 Phelon and Moores motorcycle was discovered in the basement of the RAC's Pall Mall headquarters about 15 years ago. It's the earliest patrol vehicle known and is the only one of the

interiors have all been restored by one company while the bodywork has been painted by another. Mechanical restoration has been overseen by David South of Supamot in Peterborough, specialists in restoring classic vehicles. "My only regret is that we couldn't find original tool-kits for them all," he says.

### COMPETITION



• YOU CAN win a day for two at the Festival on June 22 in our Car 97/RAC competition. It includes lunch in Goodwood House and a flight in the RAC lightship.

• Two runners-up will win pairs of tickets for Friday 20 and Saturday 21. There are consolation prizes of 15 RAC Motoring Century books.

• To win, answer these questions: 1) When was the RAC founded? 2) How many vehicles form the RAC historic collection? 3) Which Grand Prix is sponsored by the RAC this year?

• Answers on a postcard, with your address and daytime telephone number, to RAC Competition, Car 97, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. Closing date is June 13. Winners will be drawn from all correct entries. Usual Times competition rules apply.



## Britain's affair with a permanent Escort

**I**t has been hailed as a world-beater in some of the toughest rallies, it provides basic transport for millions, it was the bestselling car in the world for eight years. It started as a simple family car, but some of its more powerful models became a boy racer's delight. It is Britain's bestselling car ever: the Ford Escort.

As Ford celebrates 21 years of market leadership in Britain, it seems that reports of the Escort's imminent demise have been exaggerated. The sales figures for May show it still in second place with nearly 11,000 sold in the month; ahead of it is Ford's Fiesta and behind is the company's Mondeo. The Escort first became the UK's best-seller in 1977 and has remained in the top five ever since with a remarkable 4,350,000 sold since the MK I was introduced in 1968.

With the current Escort Mk V due to be replaced by a more upmarket, all-new model next year, Ford's marketing men have been discussing whether the time is ripe for a change of

### Alan Cops on Ford's durable bestseller

name. But one official said this week: "I'd put my money on the Escort name staying. The Escort was Ford's first European car, the new one will be a global car and the name Escort is familiar in markets throughout the world."

In Ford's Heritage collection the Escort is well represented from the car in which Gunnar Palm and Hannu Mikkola won the 1970 London-Mexico rally to the similar car in which the same team won the re-run of that event 25 years later. There is also Henry Ford II's customised Escort, an RS 2000 from 1976 with metallic paint, automatic transmission, leather seats and a built-in dictation machine.

The Escort started as basic transport, a successor to the much-loved Anglia. The first models had two doors only and in 1968 a de luxe version came at an on-the-road price of £1,795.

It has been hailed as a world-beater in some of the toughest rallies, it provides basic transport for millions, it was the bestselling car in the world for eight years. It started as a simple family car, but some of its more powerful models became a boy racer's delight. It is Britain's bestselling car ever: the Ford Escort.

The Mark III arrived in July 1980 with hatchback bodywork and front-wheel-drive, the most radical redesign in its long history. Another facelift and new engine followed in 1986 during a period when the Escort was Britain's top selling car for eight successive years.

The current Mk V arrived in August 1990. The cheapest three-door Encore models now cost £10,835 and the current price list shows 74 variants from the Encore to the automatic Ghia Cabriolet at £17,915.

But the car has retained that mix of mass appeal and sporting success from the humble family hatch to the fearsome World Rally Car with a 300bhp Cosworth engine. Above all, the Escort endures.

**T**he question was asked time after time by many people across several countries: "Is it a genuine GT40?" I was happy to say it was. All were delighted at the news, looking in awe, envy and longing at the impossibly low-slung, silver projectile. Then came the supplementary question: "Is it yours?" I was sad to tell them that it was not.

The crowd-pulling car with registration plate DWC 8 G belongs to the Ford Motor Company. For GT40 aficionados — and there are a lot about — it is a Mk III, was manufactured in 1968 and has covered less than 20,000 miles. Those who really have the low-down on this car will know that 40 denotes its height in inches. The GT40 was designed more than 30 years ago but on looks alone it could have been yesterday. Ford's GT cars won the Le Mans endurance race four times in the 1960s and many other sports car events. Of the 121 GT40s completed, only seven were built specifically for road use. DWC 8 G was the last of them.

Its V8 engine is a "mere" five litres, putting out 300bhp, compared to the 1966 Le Mans car's seven litres and 500-plus bhp, but it is muscular enough to make your eyes water, your ears ring and to give your lips a permanent smile. Squeeze the throttle, shift quickly through the slick, close-

ratio, five-speed gearbox, allow the engine to deliver deafening decibels, and the earth moves beneath its fat tyres in the most satisfying way imaginable.

But this is not a car that you just hop into and drive. "You will need to have a preliminary fitting," said Mike Platts, one of Ford's senior brand managers, who knows the car well and had asked me if I would like to accompany him on the Norwich Union RAC Classic drive.

"The major problem is whether your feet are too big to operate the pedals and whether the door, which forms part of the roof, can be shut without scalping you."

The car, together with another non-road going GT40, is looked after by Bryan Wingfield on behalf of Ford. He glanced at my shoes and said: "Impossible. Too broad. Have you brought another pair?" I had. He looked at them dubiously. "Might do. How tall?" I said, apologetically, that I was six foot one and a bit.

The driver's door incorporates half the roof, which makes getting in at least possible. The sequence is to step over the wide sill, stand on the leather

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tight corners with total grip, its magnificent engine barking and growling and gulping fuel through its big four-choke Holley carburetor. With my eyes about level with the rear bumper of a Fiesta, 40mph was a thrill, 70mph an adventure — and there was still 100mph in reserve.

So the fitting had been successful; the serious wearing would be a full day's muscle-stretching motoring on the Classic drive. Platts and I shared a 100-plus mile drive to the Norwich start and then 150 miles on the event, including some really quick stuff on the Lotus and Millbrook test tracks and the Silverstone race circuit. The heat from the mid-mounted engine turned the cockpit into a mobile sauna and conversation was just an exchange of shouts above the cacophony.

The GT40's ride is surprisingly good but with just 3in of ground clearance, every bump, every pothole, every wave in the road surface had to be viewed as a potential chassis basher. There were rattles and creaks and occasionally esoteric grunting noises from somewhere beneath the floor.

But despite all this — perhaps because of it — the GT40 is a wonderful machine. Ferraris? Aston? Jags? Forget them. For sheer high-speed masochistic driving pleasure, this roaring Fordie beats the lot.

Four times Le Mans winner GT40 in more familiar racing guise: designed more than 30 years ago, but on looks alone it could have been yesterday

## A rare beast on the road

**T**he earth moves and heads constantly turn as **Stuart Birch takes a spin in the Ford GT40**



The World Rally car with other Escorts from the Ford Heritage collection

### AN EXCLUSIVE PRIZE DRAW

THE TIMES

# 21 CARS TO BE WON DRIVE AWAY IN A BRAND NEW FORD



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Simply collect 10 differently numbered tokens from *The Times* or five differently numbered tokens from *The Times* and one token from *The Sunday Times*, or two differently numbered tokens from *The Sunday Times*. Keep your tokens safe. A Ford prize draw entry form leaflet will be inserted in *The Sunday Times* tomorrow and in *The Times* on Monday. Entry forms will also be printed in *The Sunday Times* on

June 15 and in *The Times* on June 21. You can enter as many times as you wish but each entry must be on an official Ford prize draw entry form from *The Times* or *The Sunday Times*. Entries from readers aged 18 or over, must be received by first post June 27, 1997. Insurance and road tax is not included in the prizes. Winners will be notified by post after the closing date. *Times Newspapers* competition rules apply, available from:

Competitions Department, Level 6, News International, 1 Virginia Street, London E1 9XP. No purchase necessary. You can get up to three bonus tokens by sending a first-class stamped s.a.e. to: *The Times* Ford Competition, PO Box 888, London SE1 7ZF before June 18, 1997. Or collect the tokens each day in person (Mon-Fri) from News International, 1 Virginia Street, London E1 9XP or 124, Portman Street, Kimming Park, Glasgow G41.

THE TIMES



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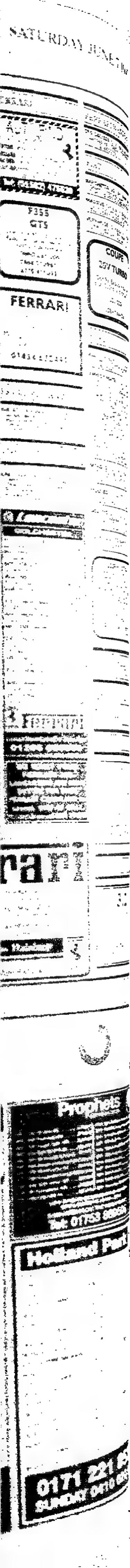
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SATURDAY JUNE 7 1997

## CAR 97

7

## CARMART: YOUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S NEW, AND WHAT'S USED, ON THE FORECOURTS

Take my wife  
... please. I'll  
keep the A6

## ROAD TEST

There was an ulterior motive to this road test and it involved the premise so eloquently invoked by the icons of the modern age, the Spice Girls. You see, what I want, what I really, really want is an Audi A6. writes Kevin Eason.

I love it to death, every angle, every curve. But let's be honest, for honesty is the best policy on a page where the taumon can see straight through my annual income to a debt the like of which is normally run up by a small South American Republic: I have no money, so owning an A6 is a distinctly unlikely idea.

However, my good lady wife is a high-powered executive. One of those sorts with a mobile phone, designer clo-

thes, a secretary... and ha, ha — a company car. Yes, a woman of means, even if those means are somebody else's.

There is a huge, and so far insurmountable, problem however. The poor deluded woman has fallen into the trap of desperately wanting the middle-class motoring talisman, the BMW 3-series.

But I was not born devious for nothing, and decided that a weekend with a top-of-the-range A6 would leave an indelible impression on her unfathomable motoring mind which would mean the end of her BMW obsession — and the entrance of an A6 which, admittedly though her com-

pany car, would still become part of the Eason household. So Audi kindly delivered an A6 2.4 to my humble semi-detached door and left the keys. It sat there in the drive: a metallic peppermint green, the roof that angled ski-slope to a rounded rear bumper, quite different to the usual quite mundane mid-range company motors. Inside, air-conditioning, a sound system to blow her mind (so that even her



Audi A6 2.4: upping the stakes in that middle range of cars dominated by company sales

appalling Gerard Kenny sings Cole Porter tape would come close to acceptable) and lots of room.

And it was so easy to drive, bags of power from the smooth V6, easy gearchange — all right, not slick but still easy — masses of glass and a boot big enough to house Billy Smart's Big Top. I loved it.

The big test was Saturday

morning. How lovely you look today, please take my car. I'd love you to take it yes. I know I don't normally like your driving, but just this once. Sweetie, Darling.

Off she went like a woman possessed, firing into the Twilight Zone, high-heeled size 6 dumped on the throttle with the delicacy of a Gladiator attempting Swan Lake.

Two hours later, she re-

turned. And? Yes, big boot,

good driving position, plenty of power, very pretty... but I want a 3-series. The woman is fixed. Nothing but a 3-series will do. Even if the 3-series remains a driving icon, the A6 has upped the stakes in that middle range of cars dominated by company sales. Which is why I want one. Perhaps gentle persuasion will have to give way to outright bribery and an expensive dinner. I must be desperate.

which means riders just switch on, engage gear, twist the throttle and go.

Running costs remain low with Group One insurance, through Peugeot, and economical fuel bills. There is also extra security because of a factory-fitted immobiliser and locking system which allows the machine to be padlocked to fence posts or cycle racks.

## SPARE PARTS



■ FORD is gearing up for its most exciting launch of the year with the entrance of the Puma coupé. The car promises to continue the styling revolution started by the Ka as a sleek two-door based on the platform and mechanicals of the Fiesta.

To prove the car's sporty credentials, Ford is offering a free day on the track to customers who order a Puma before July 31 for August delivery with the new R-registration. The sessions include driving Pumas (not their own) on the track and playing on quad bikes. Participants also get an engraved aluminium gearknob for their car to mark the day.

## Inner space

## FORECOURT

■ LAUNCHED in 1994, the Fiat Punto marries good handling in a supermini shape with plenty of room inside, writes Vaughan Freeman.

It is also quiet to drive, and the controls are well laid out. Despite its exterior dimensions, Fiat has made the most of the room inside and there is excellent boot space for that weekly shop, reports CAP Black Book.

However, it is not as well built as the rival Nissan Micra or the Corsa from Vauxhall, the seats are poor, and at low speed the steering can be heavy. Best buy is the 1994 M-reg 55SX five-door, which costs in the region of £5,000.

■ BUILT by the Spanish-based but VW-owned Seat operation, the Ibiza manages to blend quite convincingly Germanic levels of build quality with value for money motorising, and also looks nicely trendy.

Certainly the new Ibiza (launched three years ago) is Seat's best car to date. Disadvantages include a fairly hard ride, few of the safety features now taken for granted in rival marques, and no split rear seats in smaller engined variants. Best buy is the 1995 N-reg 1.4 CLS five-door at around £6,000.

■ THE cheapest Lexus yet will send shivers down spines in the boardrooms of the European luxury carmakers. The Lexus GS300 Legato goes on sale at £30,385 (£31,499 with leather trim), putting the car firmly into territory traditionally dominated by Mercedes and BMW.

Even at that price, the Legato gets a ton of equipment: air-conditioning to alloy wheels, sports suspension, cruise control, automatic transmission, electronically-controlled steering column adjustment, nine-speaker audio — and a three-year/60,000-mile warranty. Britain is already the best hunting ground in Europe for Lexus — the luxury offshoot of Toyota of Japan — with sales up 17 per cent last year. Britain now accounts for 60 per cent of all Lexus sales in Europe.

Lexus Legato: moving into territory dominated by Mercedes and BMW

■ COMMUTERS looking for extra power on their daily journey to work could invest in the new 100cc version of Peugeot's top-selling Speedfight scooter. The company discovered many city commuters wanting to switch to two wheels were travelling distances of more than 20 miles to work and needed the extra pace and power for dual carriage-ways or cruising.

The result is the Speedfight 100 at £1,800 which can cruise at 55-60mph though remaining easy to ride with its automatic variable transmission system

## JAGUAR &amp; DAIMLER

JAGUAR 3.2 SE auto, Met Red/cream leather, usual spec, 1 owner, 40,000 miles, FSH, £15,995. Tel: 0117 956 2266

## SOVEREIGN 4.0

Auto, 1993. Fine leather, dark cream, leather, aircon, electric windows, alloy wheels, 6 disc CD, 41,000 miles, FSH. Approx total car warranty. Almost immaculate. £12,750. Tel: 01792 405854

## SOVEREIGN

848, 4.2 auto, maroon, 1 owner, air con, pw strg, c/a, tan lthr, 68K, £2,500. Tel: 01480 475454

## 92 XJRS 6.0

Flame red/cream leather. 330 bhp wrapped in luxury. FSH. Air Con, memory seats etc. 1 owner, 44,000 miles. £22,500. No Dealers Tel: 01538 383680

## JAGUAR &amp; DAIMLER AUTHORISED DEALERS

XJS  
V12  
NEW SHAPE  
J7 350, 34c, jag FSH, CD, alarm, £14,950  
01454 327677 Bristol.

XJS  
V12  
1989, 56,000 miles, FSH, Solent Blue, Magnolia interior, immer cond. £15,250. Tel: 0181 530 2682

XJS  
V12 Con, '89, 33k, all extras to new tyres, FSH, £13,995 o.n.c. 01706 522477/374627.

JAGUAR & DAIMLER WANTED

## JAGUAR &amp; DAIMLER WANTED

DAIMLER XJR 5.7L. Rare model. Full leather, Sunroof, Electric windows, 01247 221015. 924 1144

XJS  
V12  
NEW SHAPE  
J7 34c, jag FSH, CD, alarm, £14,950  
01454 327677 Bristol.

XK8  
CONV.  
Delivery due July/Aug. Red, classic, lthr, cruise, memory, offers. 0171 911 8066.

XK8  
CONV.  
Delivery due July/Aug. Red, classic, lthr, cruise, memory, offers. 0171 911 8066.

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XK8  
CONV.  
Delivery due July/Aug. Red, classic, lthr, cruise, memory, offers. 0171 911 8066.

COUNTACH  
1989, Black with leather Beige, interior, 25th anniversary sports seats, 11,000 miles, FLSH, £15,000 o.n.c. Tel: 0831 757793

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## LAMBORGHINI

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COUNTACH Anniversary (1990) Roadster, Parchment Leather, 200







Film stuntman Frank Henson with his wife's demonic numberplate: "We get them mostly for fun"

ANDREW HASSON

## It could be you choosing the right numbers

For some they are still the easiest symbol of vanity, but the personalised numberplate is now more likely to belong to a self-employed business man with a healthy sense of self-irony than to a loutish rock star or loud-mouthed comedian.

Certainly they are hugely popular – and not just among egoistic male drivers. A sales analysis show that a quarter of the cherished or personalised numberplates sold each year are bought by women.

Since sales started in earnest eight years ago, almost £250 million worth have been sold either at auction or over the telephone with the money swelling the Treasury coffers. And the numbers game continues this weekend, with the first Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency auction to be held over a Saturday and Sunday, at the Ascot race course.

Appropriately, in the week leading up to the great Ascot races, and the venue, plates with horsey theme will feature, including FIL LLY, BET IS, RI DER, 2 NEY and RI DES.

The Prime Minister might be tempted to bid for a new number for his Ford Galaxy as BLA IIR is on offer, and any airline pilot who wants to personalise his or her car might go for A747 JET. Motorists who like the world to be on first-name terms with them will be able to go home with plates that make the introduction more effectively than any business card, such as AND IIE, ANG IIE, AVE IIL, BAR IIE, CLA IIR, SUE IE, and 66 LYN.

Who buys such numbers? The average asking price is around £3,500 and some sell for less than £1,000, but others fetch much more, such as 1A which sold for £200,000, K1 NGS which went for a record £231,000, I PR which went for £106,000, and BI MBO which was sold for £18,000.

Not all are bought by the rich, famous and vainglorious. Stuntman Frank Henson, seen leaping, fighting and being blown up in films like *Casino Royale*, *Indiana Jones* and *The Temple of Doom* and *Brannigan*, loves them for the fun value, so much so that all three family cars carry personalised plates.

Posh plates are no longer just for the vain and famous, says

**Vaughan Freeman**

Frank's Fiesta carries 11 HEN, his wife Marion's battered Escort Cabriolet has the demonic HEN 666, and son Franklin's car carries AI FFH. For the most part the plates are worth more than the somewhat tatty cars to which they are fitted.

"It started in the early 70s when I bought a personalised plate for my son, 6FFH, and had it on a Lotus Europa," Henson says. That plate only cost £45, compared to the £3,000 or so he had to pay for 11 HEN: "It's partly an ego thing, but since the plates are worth more than our cars we get them mostly for fun. My wife especially loves her devil number."

Byron Roberts, DVLA marketing manager, says: "When we held our first classic collection auction of personalised numbers at Christie's in 1989, people arrived in Rolls-Royces and stretch limos, and were clearly wealthy. In an hour and a half that first sale brought in £1.5 million.

"Over the years, however, the image of the personalised plate, and the sort of people who are buying them, has changed markedly. Although the amount of money being spent has actually increased, the clientele is very different and the myth that these plates are just for millionaires has been exploded.

"Anyone who is reasonably successful in business aspires to their own personalised plate, and we regularly get customers turning up in tatty jeans and worn trainers with a fistful of cash to bid. It's all walks of life, all ages, all colours and shapes.

"The average price is around £3,000, still a lot of money for something that doesn't actually make your car go any quicker, but it does enhance the image of the driver."

Further details of this weekend's auction from the CMA Group, Central House, Pontefract Road, Rothwell, Leeds, 0113 282 0707.



April Carrington: second appearance at Silverstone

## Female company

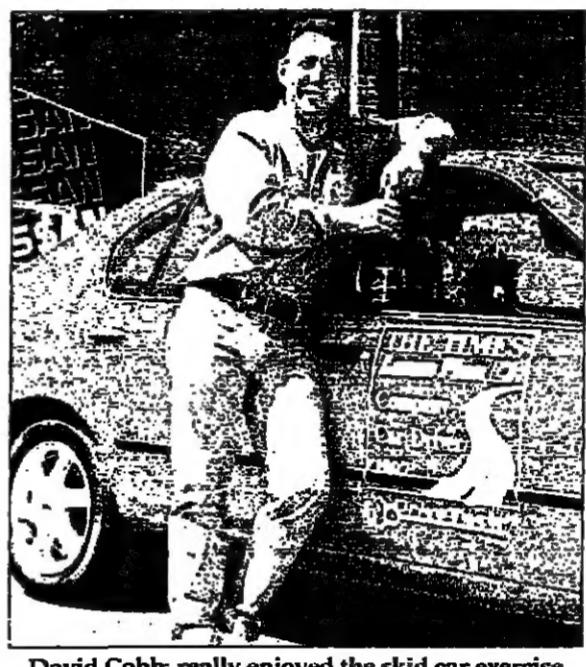
A THIRD woman has joined the line up for the finals of our annual quest to find Britain's best company car driver and for April Carrington it will be her second appearance in the final at Silverstone.

As April Shaw, before she married, she became the first woman to win a heat of *The Times*/Lease Plan contest in 1995. Last Friday in Nottingham she repeated that triumph. April, a senior sales executive with Hitachi Credit UK, praised

her company's commitment to driver training: "Until I went on a course I'd never

had dreamed of entering a competition like this. But in two years the standard has got much higher."

Winner of the other Nottingham heat was David Cobb, contracts manager for builders Baldwin & Co of Morley, Leeds. David, who drives in club rallies, said he really enjoyed the skid car exercise, which many other entrants have found a bit daunting.



David Cobb: really enjoyed the skid car exercise

### REGISTRATION NUMBERS

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**BJB 1** £18,000 Tel: 01822 480803  
**B4 UOK** Tel: £1,000 Tel: 01623 559555

**C 144** Offers over £7,000 Tel: 01623 559555  
**ONA 1** £1,000 Tel: 01202 882708

**RBJ 222** Offers over £1,000 Tel: 01623 559555

**M1 COL** £2,500ono Reluctant Sale Tel: 01527 544475

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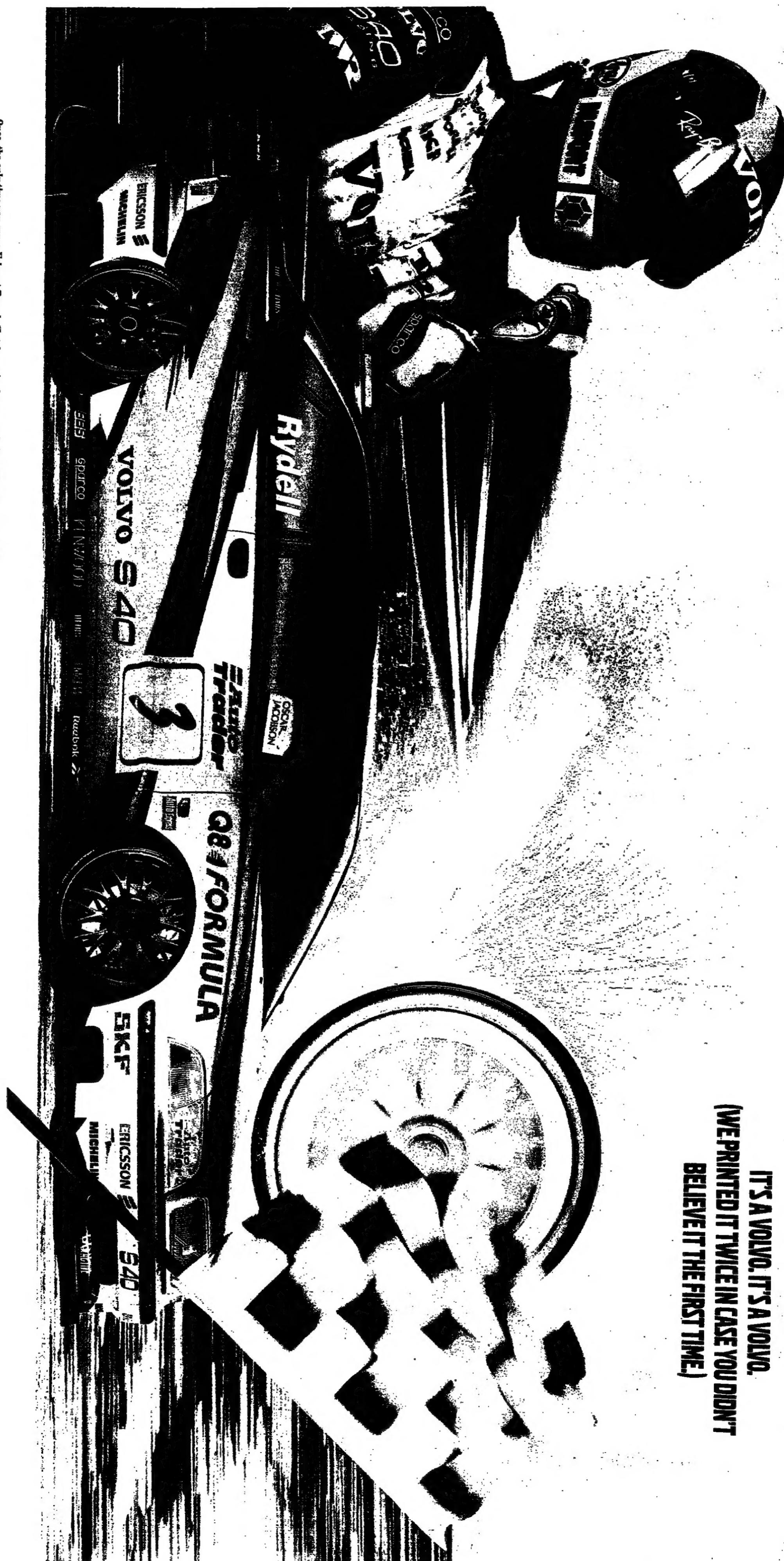
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### ROLLS-ROYCE & BENTLEY

**SHADOW Series 1, 1976** 1976 Shadow Series 1, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099



IT'S A VOLVO. IT'S A VOLVO.  
(WE PRINTED IT TWICE IN CASE YOU DIDN'T  
BELIEVE IT THE FIRST TIME.)



Once, the only time you saw a Volvo at Brands Hatch was in the car park. But things have changed. The Volvo/TWR team recently notched up eleven victories in the British Touring Car Championship with the 850 saloon. And this season, we're racing the car you see above, a 300 bhp version of the new S40. Now of course, the S40 you'll see in the showroom can't match the performance of its racing cousin. But the 16 valve two litre engine can still take you from 0-62 in just 9.3 seconds. And you may be surprised to learn that the top speed is 180 mph. Rather less surprising are features like SRS with side airbags, driver's airbag and ABS brakes. We may be new to winning races, but we've been winning a reputation for safety for years. The Volvo S40. From £14,925 to £28,875 on the road. Or from £850 per month via Volvo Contract Hire. **VOLVO CONTRACT HIRE**